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LEGISLATURE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

SENATE.

TUESDAY, Dec. 8, 1868.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

By Mr. Osborne: A bill to incorporate the Hebrew Benevolent Association, in the city of Charlotte. Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

By Mr. Shoffner: A bill in relation to employing Attorneys in civil and criminal actions. Referred to the Judiciary.

By Mr. Forkner: A bill to repeal an ordinance to amend an ordinance to incorporate the Northwestern North Carolina Railroad Company. Referred to the Committee on Internal Improvements.

By Mr. Osborne: A bill to consolidate the Charlotte and South Carolina and the Columbia and Augusta Railroad Companies. Referred to the Committee on Internal Improvements.

CALENDAR.

Bill to consolidate the Atlantic and North Carolina and the North Carolina Railroad Companies passed its second reading.

Bill to amend the Charter of the Western Railroad Company passed its second reading.

Bill to amend the Charter of the Williamston and Tarboro' Railroad Company passed its second reading.

Bill to divide and separate the Eastern and Western divisions of the North Carolina Railroad. Passed second reading.

Bill to re-enact and confirm certain acts in reference to the issue of State bonds to certain Railroad Companies. Passed second reading.

Bill authorizing the sale of the State's interest in Railroad, Turnpike and Navigation Companies was rejected on its second reading by the following vote—31 nays to 6 ayes.

Bill to amend the Charter of the Oxford Branch of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company was amended, and passed its second reading.

Mr. Cook, from the Committee on Enrolled Bills, presented sundry resolutions which were properly enrolled, and the President signified his intention to ratify them.

Among the number was the resolution in relation to bribery and black-mail.

Mr. Hays arose to a question of privilege and said: Mr. President: I arise to submit it to you whether you should sign the resolutions in relation to bribery and corruption, because the question has already been raised, and there seems to be a doubt in the minds of some. The Constitution makes it your duty to sign all bills and resolutions of a legislative nature, passed in accordance with its provisions. No Senator dare question your right to sign a bill which has passed its third readings, in accordance with the Constitution; but the resolutions in question passed this branch of the General Assembly with one reading only. The question naturally arises whether, within the meaning of the Constitution it is a resolution of a legislative nature. If it is, I submit that the action of the Senate has been informal, and that you, knowing it to be so, ought not to sign the resolution. I say this as one sworn to support that instrument. I could not say less. I would not say more. Sec. 25, art. 2, of the Constitution reads as follows:

"All bills and resolutions of a legislative nature shall be read three times in each House, before they pass into laws."

The words "prepare bills to be passed into laws," in section 24, same article, are fully explained in section 25, upon this point, where the Constitution requires bills to be read three times in each House before they pass, and also resolutions of a legislative nature. Is this a resolution of a legislative nature? Certainly the Legislature in passing this resolution has exercised one of the highest powers entrusted to its care— power possessed by no other department of the government and one fraught with good or evil. I refer to the power vested in the Legislature, under the Constitution, to define crimes and their degree of punishment. This stamps the resolution as being of a legislative nature, and brings us back to the argument, whether, under the constitution, you should sign the resolution. Besides, sir, it is contended that any person in North Carolina can be summoned before this committee. I know of no other committee of this Legislature to which the same powers have been granted. A resolution so nearly affecting every man in North Carolina, dealing not alone with filthy lucre, but with the priceless gem of character, was certainly entitled to the maturest consideration of the grave Senators of North Carolina before it was passed into a law. Ordinary decency would have dictated this course, but rashness and impetuosity are frequently blind to means, to their haste to secure the object; and, sir, it is well for us to pause now, ere we launch these resolutions upon the public seas, and inquire whether our action has been such as that contemplated by the Constitution, and whether you, knowing the omissions, are bound to sign these resolutions.

Sir, whether they are signed or not, I stand here, to-day, willing to abide by your decision, or that of this honorable Senate. Pending such decision, I will submit the further question to you, whether the resolutions, having passed the Senate, in violation of the express provisions of the Constitution, having been transmitted to the House, having passed that body in accordance with the Constitution, and signed by the Speaker thereof, they have passed beyond the control of the Senate; and if you decide that you cannot sign them because they are unconstitutional, *de facto*, they are dead. Sir, this is no factious opposition. I claim to be possessed of as high moral sentiments and character as any Senator on this floor. I know that what I say may renew and prolong a discussion already painful to the public mind, but the lawabiding people of North Carolina, when the moment of excitement is over, will not excuse me, or any of us, if, in this seeming attempt to vindicate their rights, we violate our own oaths. Let the paths of truth and justice—the broad ways of liberty and law laid down in the Constitution of this State, and approved by 20,000 majority of her people—be ever preserved with unfaltering step and unflinching courage, and though, in so doing, we may meet with scoffers and revilers, or with Thersites clamoring in the camp, yet, in the end, the applause of a satisfied people will be our richest reward.

Mr. Sweet arose to reply.

A. H. Galloway, colored, objected.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner, Mr. Sweet was allowed to proceed—A. H. Galloway, colored, alone, voting in the negative.

Mr. Hayes said he would like to ask the President, before the Senator began his remarks, if he would sign the resolutions, without submitting them again to the vote of the Senate.

The President declined to answer the question.

Mr. Sweet arose and said: Mr. President, although I have survived nearly one half the allotted years of man, yet there never was a time in my life when the exercise of the Christian virtue of forbearance demanded so much effort from me as within the last few days. The strange spectacle is presented to the Senate, on this occasion, of one Senator, as youthful and inexperienced as myself, reading to our presiding officer a carefully prepared interpretation of his duties, and doing so, too, with all the gravity of a *Roman* Senator! I cannot withhold an expression of my admiration of our presiding officer for declining to reply to the Senator from Robeson, as to whether he intended to ratify these resolutions.

The President of this body is sworn to discharge his duty as he understands it, and not as the Senator from Robeson understands it.

If ever, in a moment of forgetfulness or imprudence, I should presume to trespass upon the right of the President to interpret for himself his duty, I trust he will administer to me the rebuke as I would well deserve.

Now as to the merit of the objection made by the Senator to the ratification of these resolutions. There is only one way in which any expression of opinion by a Legislative body—whether it be by resolution or by a formal act—can be authenticated, and that is by the signature of the presiding officers of the two Houses. The provision in our Constitution requiring all bills and resolutions of a legislative nature to be read three times in each House, before they pass into laws, and that they shall be signed by the presiding officers of both Houses, is surplusage, so far as relates to the signatures of the presiding officers, for such signatures are required by the law of common sense. If these resolutions are of a legislative nature it is because they seek to enlarge the legal definition of perjury, and if such enlargement is defeated by the failure to read these resolutions three times in the Senate, any one can avail himself of this defect in a trial upon an indictment for perjury under these resolutions. These resolutions so far as they authorize an investigation, confer just as ample power upon the committee as if they had passed three readings.

I submit, Mr. President, my sincere belief that the purpose of this last demonstration of antagonism to these resolutions is the same as the preceding manifestations of hostility, to wit: *procrastination*. It may be possible to defeat me here, but, if you do so, there is another forum to which I shall go and another jury to whom the evidence shall be submitted, and that jury is composed of all who live within the broad limits of North Carolina. Gentlemen oppose these resolutions on the ground of unconstitutionality; they say the Constitution requires that they should have been read three times in the Senate. I will make this proposition to them: If they will promise that if these resolutions are to be read the second and third times in the Senate, they will vote for them and offer no opposition to their passage, I will consent to their being read again; but it matters not whether they are read or not, the investigation will go on—the probe shall go down into the depths of the wounds, and they shall be shown up to honest men everywhere in all their deformity.

The President stated that he had listened with pleasure to Senators on both sides of the question. The resolutions had passed the House and had been signed by the Speaker of that body, and he signified his intention to ratify them; which he did.

On motion, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, Dec. 8, 1868.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Hodnett offered the following:

WHEREAS, The high tax of thirty-two cents per pound on tobacco operates to the serious injury of a large number of the people of this State: Therefore,

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, That our Senators and Representatives, in the Congress of the United States, be respectfully requested to use their endeavors to have the said tax reduced to *ten* cents on the pound.

Resolved further, That the Speaker of this House transmit a copy of these resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Mr. Hodnett moved to suspend the rules, in order to adopt at once. Carried.

The resolution was adopted.

SPECIAL ORDER, VIZ:

The bill to incorporate the North Carolina Dental Association, [introduced by Mr. French, of New Hanover.] Tabled.

BILLS, &C.

By J. H. Harris, of Wake, colored: A bill for the better protection of debtors; which was ordered to be printed and referred to the Judiciary committee, with instructions to report day after to-morrow.

By Mr. Wilkie: A bill to extend the authority of Sheriffs and other officers, in cases of arrests. Referred.

By Mr. Ingram: A bill to renew the Charter of the Richmond Manufacturing Company. Referred.

CALENDAR.

Mr. Ingram's resolution in favor of the County Commissioners of Anson was taken up.

After some debate, Mr. I. withdrew, by consent, the resolution.

On motion of Mr. Dixon, the House then adjourned.

SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 9, 1868.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Osborne, from the committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred a bill to prohibit persons from hunting on the Sabbath, reported favorably.

By the same: A bill concerning Magistrate's Courts; unfavorably.

By the same: A bill to incorporate the Silver Hill Railroad Company, in the county of Davidson; favorably.

Mr. Long said that, as this bill did not ask for any appropriation, he hoped it would pass without discussion, and moved a suspension of the rules in order to put it on its several readings.

Mr. Love said he did not like such hasty legislation. There might be powers granted in this bill which might be objectionable, and, in order to give the Senate time to consider it thoroughly, he moved that it be printed.

Mr. Robbins said that he, like the Senator from Jackson, was opposed to hasty legislation when there was anything involved affecting the interest of the State; but this was a very simple question. This bill only asks for the right of way for ten miles, without asking any appropriation. They intend to build this road themselves, and he could not see the necessity for delaying it.

Mr. Osborne said it was really so refreshing to have an application to build a railroad, without asking an appropriation from the State, that he thought this bill ought to pass readily, and he hoped there would be no further objection to it. If an appropriation of $1,000,000 was asked for it would pass, and, as there is nothing desired but simply a privilege to build the road at their own expense, it should pass at once.

Mr. Sweet said he was a railroad man, and when people came forward and desired to spend their own money to construct a road, he thought they should be encouraged. And, in the language of the Senator from Mecklenburg, it is so refreshing to hear of such propositions that it should pass without debate, and he signified his intention to vote for the bill.

Mr. Love withdrew his motion to print, and the bill passed its several readings unanimously.

SPECIAL ORDER, VIZ:

Report of the committee in reference to the eligibility of the Senator from the 14th District (Mr. Purdie) to his seat.

Mr. Cook moved to postpone its further consideration until the 21st of December.

A. H. Galloway, colored, moved to lay the motion on the table; which was lost.

Mr. Etheridge moved to amend the motion to postpone by striking out "21st," and inserting "17th," which was accepted.

Mr. Barrow opposed postponement any longer. He held his seat in the Senate pledged to support the Constitution of the United States, and here is a Senator holding a seat on this floor, of which the committee to whom his case was referred have reported that they believe him to be banned by the Howard amendment, and therefore not entitled to his seat. There was no necessity of delaying the matter any longer and he should vote against the proposition.

Mr. Lindsay said he differed with the Senator from Northampton as to the report of the committee. Said committee was composed of eight. Only four of them had signed the report. There was a doubt whether the Senator whose case was under consideration was banned, and he did not see the necessity for rushing this matter through. He hoped that it would be postponed until the 4th of January, or until a decision from the Supreme Court could be had settling this matter finally. Senators could not vote intelligently until this question was decided. Some persons are so much in love with the Howard amendment that they are not disposed to give these grave questions that thorough examination which they deserve. Let us not act hastily and do no man injustice.

A. H. Galloway, colored, said he understood the true meaning of the motion to postpone this question. The real object was to postpone it from time to time, and not come to a direct vote upon it, in order to gain votes for another project. He was opposed to postponing it any longer, and thereby increasing the debt of the State by continually bringing this matter up.—There were some Railroad bills on foot; he understood the game, and, if he was fooled with, he would let the "cat out of the bag."

Mr. Cook said he *should have called the gentleman to order*, but he did not cut him. He was in favor of postpouement because he desired more light on the subject. If he was compelled to vote as he now understood the case, he should vote to vacate the seate of the Senator. He had become favorably impressed with the Senator, although he differed with him politically, and did not intend to do him injustice.

The Senate agreed to postpone until the 17th of December.

By Mr. Rich: A bill to incorporate the University Railroad Co. [This bill provides that the Company shall have power to construct a road from any point on the North Carolina Road, between Durham's and Hillsboro', to the University of the State.] Referred to the committee on Internal Improvements.

A message was received from the House transmitting a resolution petitioning Congress to reduce the tax on tobacco to 10 cents on the pound.

On motion of A. H. Galloway, colored, the rules were suspended and the resolution was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Jones, of Wake, the vote by which the bill to sell the State's interest in railroad, navigation and turnpike Companies, &c., was rejected on yesterday, was reconsidered, and it was allowed to pass its second reading and take its place on the calendar, after considerable discussion.

CALENDAR.

The bill to be entitled an "act amendatory of the act to incorporate the Western North Carolina Railroad Company, and acts amendatory thereof," was taken up.

Mr. Welker moved to strike out section 9 (which gives the incorporators the right to make and discontinue branches of said road, at will.)

Mr. Lassiter opposed the amendment.—He had had some experience in railroads, and had become convinced that their construction never impoverished a State, neither did he believe that the building of one road injured another. He should vote for all railroad projects when he could do so without destroying or impairing the credit of the State.

Mr. Welker said he did not like to be placed in a wrong position. He was in favor of railroads as much as any member on the floor; but, having New Jersey in his eye, he was opposed to giving to any one Company such powers as to establish a monopoly.

Mr. Robbins said his great desire was that the money which had been appropriated to complete the main trunk and the branch to Paint Rock would be used in that way, and that no other branch would be begun until these roads were completed.

Mr. Love offered to amend the 9th section as follows: "*Provided further*, that no other branch shall be built until the main trunk is completed to its Western terminus," which was lost, and the motion to strike out the ninth section was lost also.

Mr. Barrow moved to amend the fifth section as follows: "*Provided*, that the State shall be entitled to a *pro rata* vote upon her stock according to the representation of individual stock in the meeting."

Considerable discussion ensued. Messrs. Robbins and Osborne opposed the amendment, and Messrs. Welker and Barrow supported it.

Mr. Sweet moved to strike out the fifth section as a substitute for the amendment of Mr. Barrow, which was adopted after considerable discussion—Messrs. Robbins and Osborne in opposition, and Messrs. Sweet, Welker and Brogden urging its adoption.

Mr. Robbins offered an amendment to the ninth section: "And no other branch shall be begun or built, until the main track and the branch road to Paint Rock shall be completed."

Pending its discussion, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 9, 1868.

PETITIONS, &c.

Mr. French presented a memorial from certain merchants of Wilmington, remonstrating against the passage of the bill (introduced by Mr. French) in relation to the weighing of rosin.

Mr. French said, in presenting the memorial, that it should make no difference in his action in the matter.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

On motion of Mr. Vestal, the rules were suspended, and his resolution (reported favorably upon by the committee) asking the Senators and Representatives from this State, in Congress, to use their influence to have the United States law in regard to distilleries so altered or modified as to exempt small distilleries from the special tax, was taken up.

Mr. Justice, of Rutherford, advocated the adoption of the resolution, and it was adopted without debate.

RESOLUTIONS, BILLS, &C.

By Mr. Hodgin: A resolution requesting our Senators and Representatives in Congress to use their influence to have all the postoffices and mail routes, which heretofore existed, renewed and reopened.

On motion of Mr. Hodgin, the rules were suspended and the resolution was adopted.

By Mr. Pou: A bill to authorize the Commissioners of Johnston county to levy a special tax, not to exceed 20 cents upon the $100 value, to pay for a bridge built across Neuse River, by order of the late County Court.

On motion of Mr. Pou, the rules were suspended and the bill passed its several readings.

By Mr. Estes: A bill to incorporate Castle Hayne Vineyard Company. Referred.

By Mr. Gunter: A bill to prohibit the distillation of grain.

Mr. Bowman moved to print the bill and make it the special order for Friday next, at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Seymour said that measures like this had come up repeatedly last session, and each time were defeated by an increased majority. If the matter was brought up, a long discussion would ensue. To save time, he would move to indefinitely postpone the matter.

Mr. Stilley objected to the motion. He thought a reference might at least be allowed.

At the request of Mr. Bowman, Mr. Seymour withdrew his motion to postpone indefinitely, when,

Mr. Bowman moved to refer to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.—Carried.

On motion of J. S. Leary, (colored,) the rules were suspended, and House bill No. 113, authorizing the county of Cumberland and town of Fayetteville to issue bonds for their indebtedness, was taken up and passed its several readings.

The Chair announced the following gentlemen as the Committee of Investigation in relation to the "Black-Mail" affair: Messrs. Estes, Gatling, Graham, Bowman and Wiswall.

The Speaker then administered the following oath to each of the gentlemen, who had come forward, in accordance with the Speaker's request, to the Clerk's desk:

"You, and each of you, sincerely *swear* that you will discharge your duties, under the resolution constituting you members of a Joint Committee of Investigation, without fear, favor, affection, reward or the hope of reward: So help you God."

The oath being taken, the Speaker, in presenting each of them with a copy of the joint resolutions raising the Committee, said:

"I have prepared for each of you a certified copy of the resolutions, raising the Joint Committee of which you are members. You will be governed by its provisions, the Constitution, and by parliamentary law applicable to Committees of this character. I will say, further, that since this investigation, on the part of the House is now entrusted to your care, it is done in the belief that you will conduct it faithfully, fairly, fearlessly."

House bill No. 79, (introduced by Mr. French,) to better enable the Commissioners of New Hanover county to carry out the provisions of section 13, article 7, of the Constitution, passed its third reading.

Mr. French moved to reconsider the vote of yesterday, by which the bill to incorporate the North Carolina Dental Association was laid on the table.

Mr. Malone supported the motion to reconsider. Mr. Foster also favored the motion, and J. S. Leary (colored) hoped the motion to reconsider would prevail.

Mr. Ellis was as much in favor of elevating the profession and of protecting the people from quacks, as any man. But he was opposed to this bill. It created a monopoly. It gave too much power, &c. It compelled any one, though he might have been practicing for years, to come into the Association, or to be excluded from practice. He, however, had no objection to having the vote reconsidered, and then postponed, in order to have time to give it a careful consideration.

The motion to reconsider was then put and carried, and, on motion of Mr. French, the bill was then postponed until the second Monday in January next.

On motion of Mr. Seymour, the House then adjourned until to-morrow morning 11 o'clock.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, Dec. 10, 1868.

BILL.

By Mr. Bellamy: A bill authorizing the Commissioners of the Town of Tarboro' to grant the right of way through said town to the Williamston & Tarboro' Railroad Company. Refered to the Committee on Corporations.

On motion of Mr. Barrow, the rules were suspended, and the bill providing for the Registration of Voters in special cases was taken up and passed its several readings. (This bill provides that all persons, who have registered heretofore, are entitled to vote, and enables those who failed to register to do so.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Bill to be entitled "an act amendatory of an act to incorporate the Western North Carolina Railroad Company, and acts amendatory thereof."

The question being on the amendment offered by Mr. Robbins to the 9th Section, to wit:

"*Provided*, That no branch shall be built until the main Road to Duck Town and the branch to Paint Rock shall be completed;" which was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Moore, of Carteret, the vote, by which the fifth section was stricken out, and the proviso offered by Mr. Barrow, rejected on yesterday, was reconsidered.

The question recurring on Mr. Barrow's amendment, to wit: "Provided that the State shall be entitled to a *pro rata* vote upon her stock, according to the representation of individual stock in the meeting."

Mr. Osborne said that the effect of this amendment would be to increase the powers of the State. He was perfectly willing that the State should retain so much control as was provided for in the original Charter, but this proposition would give her the entire control of the Road, which is in contravention of the provisions of the original Charter.

Mr. Barrow said he had no desire to abridge the rights of individual stockholders, but he thought his amendment would settle the disputes which he understood were chronic between said stockholders and those representing the interest of the State.

Mr. Osborne offered an amendment to the amendment, to wit: "*Provided*, That the State shall be represented in all the stockholders' meetings, as is now provided for in the original Charter;"—which was rejected, and Mr. Barrow's amendment was then adopted.

The question recurring on the passage of the bill, it passed by the following vote: Ayes 32, Nays 8.

CALENDAR.

Bill No. 2, amendatory of an act to incorporate the Western North Carolina Railroad Company, and acts amendatory thereof:

Mr. Sweet said that it appeared at a glance that this bill increased the indebtedness of the State to the extent of about $3,000,000. It is useless, Mr. President, to enter into an argument against the increase of the indebtedness. The Western division of this road, to which this bill relates, has a capital stock of $6,000,000, and it is yet in its swaddling clothes; not as yet has a single spade been stuck in the ground. Why ask for an additional appropriation? This stock may be found adequate to complete it. The burthens of taxation were already onerous upon the people, and he could not vote to add to their grievous burthens; and, even if we were as rich as Crœsus, this additional appropriation should not be granted, until it is ascertained what amount is actually required.

Mr. Lassiter said he would state that he had understood that it was necessary to procure the appropriation, in order to put the entire line under contract, and, with that view, he thought the bill should pass.

Mr. Welker said if he understood the matter correctly, he was opposed to that clause which authorizes the stockholders to borrow $2,000,000, and giving those who loan the money a mortgage on the entire road. It appeared to him as bad policy, and placed the State in such a position that she might lose her entire interest in the road.

Mr. Osborne said he intended to vote for the bill, notwithstanding the objections offered by the Senators from Craven and Guilford. This work is ahead of all the railroad schemes in the State, and there should be enough money appropriated at once to complete it. To appropriate only a sufficient amount to complete one section at a time, the section will be worn out before another is completed. Besides, the sooner the road is completed, the sooner the great resources of the rich mountain regions will come down it—a section of the State that has been denied, for years, the privilege of intercourse with the outer world—a section that can sustain double the population of the entire State. He thought the appropriation would be well spent, and, instead of increasing the debt, it would be a source of revenue. [His description of the rich country through which this road must pass was graphic and eloquent, and the Reporter regrets his inability to do Mr. Osborne justice by giving his remarks in full.]

Mr. Robbins said that he felt, to-day, the responsibility of being a Senator. He had tried to keep silent on this question, but his conscience would not let him. He desired to see this road built; he had kind friends who were interested in it, and thought the road ought to be built at once. I agree with them. It would be a good thing to have this road which runs from my town into that rich mountain country which the Senator from Mecklenburg so eloquently described, *but can we do it?* It will not do for us to stay here and build air castles, when our poor people are to pay the piper. *Can they do it?* If this tax of 8 per cent is not sufficient to pay the interest, then it is unconstitutional, and if it is sufficient, it will raise $400,000, which is greater than the annual tax for the entire State heretofore. Are we ready to increase this tax? It is more than our people can bear, and I do not desire to see the people crushed and beggared, in order to build this road, no matter how much I desire to see it done.

Again, $2,000,000 are to be borrowed from certain parties, and they have a mortgage on the entire road. There is more in that suggestion from the Senator from Guilford than Senators may see at a glance. We ought not to risk it. I never heard of a road before that required so much money to begin—$7,000,000, and the ground not broken, and this fund is in the hands of whom? We do not know. There is no provision in the Charter requiring the private stockholders to pay in a cent—until the State has paid in all it has subscribed. Men take the contracts; where is the security that they will not put it in their pockets and go to Europe? Where is the security that, after we have made all these appropriations the road will be ours? About six private capitalists have subscribed stock and have not paid in a cent, and are continually asking us for money. I warn you Senators, in the name of the people of North Carolina, to be careful how you exercise such powers. I want the road as much as any one, but I *cannot* vote for this bill.

Mr. Lassiter expressed his gratification at the eloquent remarks of the Senator from Mecklenburg, in support of this bill. He had taken the right view. So far as the question of taxation was concerned it appeared that Senators who were opposing this measure had ignored the fact entirely that, in proportion that a country is built up, the better able it becomes to pay what it owes. I have never known it to be the case, in my life, that the contractors of any road have pocketed the appropriations and fled to another country. The only spring-board that we are to rise from must be in the Internal Improvements of the State.

On motion of Mr. Cook the previous question was called, and the bill passed its third reading, as follows:

AYES.—Messrs. Beasley, Beeman, Bellamy, Burns, Blythe, Cook, Davis, Eaves, Etheridge, Eppes, colored, Galloway, colored, Hayes, Harrington, Hyman, colored, Jones, of Wake, Lassiter, Lindsay, Love, Martindale, Moore, of Yancey, Osborne, Rich, Richardson, Respass, Scott, Smith, Stephens and Wynne—28.

NAYS.—Messrs. Barrow, Barnes, Brogden, Graham, Long, Melchor, Moore, of Carteret, Purdie, Robbins, Shoffner, Sweet and Welker—12.

Mr. Moore, of Carteret, moved to reconsider the vote.

Mr. Etheridge moved to lay the motion on the table, which prevailed.

The Senate branch of the committee on Bribery came forward and were sworn in, viz: Messrs. Sweet, Robbins and Forkner.

Mr. Shoffner moved to postpone the consideration of the eligibility of Mr. Oates, Senator elect from the 16th District, until January 15th.

Pending the consideration of the matter, on motion of Mr. Bellamy, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, 11 o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, Dec. 10, 1868.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.

By Mr. Sinclair: A resolution directing the Secretary of State to report forthwith to this House the exact number of the volumes of the Code of Civil Procedure, the cost of printing, how many have been sold, with name of purchasers, &c. Lies over.

By Mr. Malone: The following resolutions, which lie over:

WHEREAS, It is known to this General Assembly that our sister State of Tennessee has in process of construction several important lines of railroads leading into Western North Carolina, which are intended to connect with such roads in this State as will best subserve the interests of the two States; and whereas, it is the opinion of this General Assembly that the appropriate connections and final completion of these several railroad enterprises will contribute largely to the rapid growth, development and prosperity of both States; and believing, also, that a comparison of opinions and a concert of action between the two States, is necessary to insure the final success of these excellent and stupendous projects of improvement;

Therefore Resolved, That the Senate concurring) that this General Assembly suggest to and cordially invites the Legislature of Tennessee, now in session, to send to the City of Raleigh such delegation or Committee as it may think proper, to confer with a like Committee of this General Assembly, in reference to these various contemplated railroad enterprises.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed, consisting of five on the part of the House, and two on the part of the Senate, to confer with the Tennessee delegation and report to this General Assembly.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be sent to the Speakers of both Houses of the Legislature of Tennessee for their action.

On motion of Mr. Sinclair, the rules were suspended, and his resolution, directing the Secretary of State to report in reference to the Code of Civil Procedure, was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Laflin, the joint resolution authorizing the Public Treasurer to pay to H. J. Menninger, Secretary of State, $600 for hire of *special* clerks, was taken up.

J. S. Leary, (colored,) wanted to know for how long a time these special clerks were hired.

Mr. Laflin replied from July last up to the present time.

Mr. Justice, of Rutherford, thought there were fees attached to this kind of work that would pay for the work.

Mr. Estes said that there had been two bills before the Committee, (Finance)—one asking for $330 for two clerks, and another for $320 for one, for services during the last six months. The committee had consolidated the two bills into the one just read.

Mr. Stilley said there had been a protest laid before the Committee on Salaries and Fees against the payment of this demand. The reasons of this protest were of a private nature, and he did not feel disposed to give them to the House.

Mr. Estes said he did not see why a protest had been laid before a committee, to whom the matter had not been referred. This matter had been committed to the Finance Committee; whether properly or not, *that* was a matter for the House to decide. But so long as it had been so referred, he, as Chairman of that committee, disliked to hear of a measure they had reported favorably upon being protested against by another committee, and the benefit of such protest not given to the House.

Mr. Welch said this was a very unusual way of doing business. The law, he thought, had already provided pay for the clerical work in the Secretary of State's office. But, let the matter be as it might, he did not feel disposed to vote for this appropriation until he understood it better, and, with due deference to the Finance Committee, he would like to see it referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. Sinclair opposed any further reference.

Mr. Smith, of Martin, did not care particularly what committee reported on it; all he wished to know was whether it was right or wrong. If right, it would have his support; if wrong, he would vote against it, if the roof of the Capitol fell.

Mr. Vest thought the matter had better be discussed on its third reading.

Mr. Downing opposed any other reference.

Mr. Smith, of Martin, wanted to know if the matter had been before a called meeting of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Estes: Yes, sir; not only before a called meeting, but before a majority of the Committee.

Mr. Smith: A member of the committee has just told me that the matter had not, to his knowledge, been ever discussed before the committee.

Mr. Estes: Some five or six members have never seen fit to attend the meetings of the committee.

Mr. Welch said he had observed a disposition on the part of some in this House, every time a Conservative member opened his mouth, to cry out about "party and party spirit" being manifested—charging, as it were, upon them that they were the one eternal source of dissension. Now, he did not intend to submit to any such thing. He intended, as a Representative of the the people, to raise his voice whenever he thought their interests demanded it; and, most especially, would he protest against and denounce, in unmeasured terms, this reckless and sinful waste of the money of a people ruined already by the desolation of a long war, and who were now being fast being driven into pauperism by having their affairs thrown into the hands of men whose incapacity is only excelled by their wickedness. He opposed this appropriation and would never cast his vote for it, until he should be clearly convinced, first, that the Secretary of State had a right to employ special clerks; and secondly, that the amount charged was fair and reasonable.

Mr. Estes said he did not care particularly about the resolution, but if any reflections were made upon a committee of which he had the honor to be chairman, he would resent them, let them come from what quarter they would.

Mr. Mendenhall said he understood that the gentleman (Mr. Walton) who claimed 108 days' pay, was *an employe of the Freedmen's Bureau*. He thought *one* salary ought to suffice him.

Mr. Estes: Not if he has energy and enterprise to command two. He (Mr. Walton) had been in the habit of coming to the Secretary of State's office in the afternoon, after office hours in the Bureau, and working very late! He works harder than Mr. Mendenhall and gets less pay for it.

Mr. Durham said, that last session the House had refused to pass a bill to allow the Secretary of State an additional clerk, and he was not going to vote for the precedent of allowing officers to bring in large bills for the State to pay, incurred without any authority whatever.

Mr. Estes said that at the close of last session, the House was willing to allow the Secretary another Clerk, but there was no quorum in the Senate It was well understood that the Secretary would bring in a bill to meet the expenses incurred on account of employing the additional clerical force, which the work of his office demanded.

Mr. Durham replied that for 70 years the work of this office had been carried on without any clerk at all. It was only at the close of the war that a clerk, after a hard contest, was allowed. He did not see or know how the work of the office had been so much increased that three additional clerks had to be employed for the last six months. Now he wanted gentlemen who favored this resolution to toe the mark. Let them frame and pass a bill giving the Secretary of State additional clerical force, so that the people generally would know how many were being fed with fat places. Do not conceal the matter by passing appropriations.

Mr. Ingram favored the motion to refer.

After some debate, Mr. Stilly said there had been a statement made to the Committee on Salaries and Fees, that another person claimed to be entitled to the pay instead of Mr. Walton, and his claim would be rendered to this body. This information which he now gave to the House led him to make his first statement in regard to the matter.

Mr. Estes said if the gentleman had spoken out at first, it would have stopped this discussion. Though he believed the charge to be unfounded, yet he would move to recommit to the finance committee.

J. S. Leary, colored, rose to a point of order, stating that the question properly recurred on his motion, made in the early part of the debate, to refer to the committee on Salaries and Fees.

The Chair sustained the point.

Pending the further discussion of the matter the House, on motion of J. H. Harris, of Wake, colored, adjourned.

STATE NEWS.

MASONIC.—The officers of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, for the ensuing year, were installed on Wednesday evening by Past Grand Master Watson. The following are the officers:

Robt B Vance, of Buncombe, Grand Master.

Dr Ellis Malone, of Franklin, Deputy Grand Master.

Joseph B Batchelor, of Raleigh, Senior Grand Warden.

Samuel H Rountree, of Lenoir, Junior Grand Warden.

Williams E Anderson, of Raleigh, Grand Treasurer.

Donald W Bain, of Raleigh, Grand Secretary.

Rev T H Pritchard, D D, of Raleigh, Grand Chaplain.

Frederick C Roberts, of New Berne, Senior Grand Deacon.

Alexander S Heide, of Raleigh, Junior Grand Deacon.

William H Malone, of Caldwell, Grand Marshall.

Fenton G Foster, of Wake, Grand Sword Bearer.

Thomas L Wilson, of Chatham, Grand Pursuivant.

James M Betts, of Raleigh, Grand Tiler.

R W Best, of Raleigh, Saml H Rountree and H S Lee, of Lenoir, have been appointed Grand Custodians.

Ral. *Standard.*

MALLOY'S FACTORY.—We recently visited the factory of Col. Charles Malloy, near Laurel Hill, Richmond county, N. C. Col. Malloy makes a fine article of thread, which, we are pleased to learn, sells very rapidly in the surrounding country.

Col. Malloy manufactures only thread yet, but expects to make cloth also after he gets under way. He deserves much praise for his enterprise. An invading army burnt his homestead and household goods and almost impoverished him, but he has gone to work—rebuilt and now gives employment to many poor and worthy people. This is the way to build up the country and restore what was lost.

Fayetteville *Eagle.*

It may be interesting for the Scalawags of 1880 to know that the first freedman's vote polled in North Carolina was for an old line Democrat, a former slaveholder and an unmistakable Southerner. We refer to our friend, Major John Hughes, of Craven, who on March 21st, 1867, when a candidate for the State Senate, received the *first* and the *only* seven freedmen's votes cast in this State up to that time.—The term "freedmen," of course distinguishes the present colored votes from the "free negroes" of 1835.

Rutherford *Vindicator.*

MARRIED.

In Rockingham, Richmond county, N. C., on the 11th November, by Rev. Andrew McMillan, JOHN W. COVINGTON, to Miss MOLLIE COLE, eldest daughter of Robert L. Steele, all of Richmond county.

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

WILMINGTON, N. C.,

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1868.

North Carolina Railroad Freights.

The recent *ukase* of the Autocrat of the North Carolina Railroad Company has been graciously permitted to be published. By it all freights going from, or coming to, the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad are to be charged *local rates*.

Thus, while Norfolk and Petersburg merchants can send their goods to Central and Western North Carolina, and receive in return the products of that rich and extensive country on *through* rates, the merchants of Wilmington, living in the same State, and *whose fellow-townsmen contributed one-tenth of the entire amount subscribed by individuals for the building of the North Carolina Railroad*, are compelled to pay *local* rates from Goldsboro' going West, or to Goldsboro' coming East. We are not informed whether Newbern is included in this ukase or not.

We are informed by some of our Railroad officials, whose experience extends over more *years* than the *months* that the President of the North Carolina Railroad has been in charge of that road, that in all past time, under every successive State and Railroad administration, it has been the custom to agree upon rates to be charged by roads running in connection, with the view to harmonize their mutual interests. Unquestionably it would be greatly to the interests of the farmers and merchants along the line of the North Carolina Railroad, and its Western connections, to have all the advantages of trade with the various seaports with which they have railroad connections, and especially that they should not be *prevented* from trading with the ports in their own State if their interests, as well as their wishes, can be subserved by so doing. They have a right to demand that they may be permitted to patronize Wilmington and Newbern when, by building up the commercial importance of those cities, they are adding to the wealth of North Carolina, and doing themselves, indirectly, much good.

To our own business men, our mechanics and laboring people—to all classes of our community—this is a serious matter. We have a right to demand that Wilmington shall enjoy all the advantages of trade with the interior of our State that are enjoyed by the most *favored localities*. We had no right to expect that a railroad controlled by the State, which owes so much to Wilmington's members of the Legislature and to the liberality of her citizens, should be operated specially against our interest, and in favor of the citizens of other States.

We call the attention of the Chamber of Commerce to this matter, and if Wilmington has a representative in the Legislature in sympathy with her welfare, and all the members from New Hanover claim a home in this city, we ask them to call attention to it. General Brogden, of Wayne, and General Estes, of New Hanover, are State Directors in the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, and they should feel official obligation resting upon them to have the causes of this illiberal and unjust discrimination made public.

We intend to ventilate this matter freely and fully, in no party spirit, but as a business transaction, and in the meantime ask our exchanges to give these facts publicity as an act of justice to their readers. We cannot believe that Governor Holden or the State authorities approve the course that is being pursued at present. With all the Governor's faults, he has shown a disposition to foster North Carolina interests, and he certainly has no reason to feel inimical towards Wilmington or New Hanover, for they are among his strongholds. The blacks are his devoted friends and admirers, and the whites, in the face of his silly, and we fear, untruthful correspondence with General Miles in regard to "those arms," are determined to give to his administration a respectful, law-abiding and unprejudiced support. Both classes have the right to expect that their interests shall not be sacrificed through the ignorant and malignant prejudices of his appointees. To his attention we call the matter.

The State Debt.

We direct attention to the proceedings of the House in regard to the interest falling due upon the Bonds of the State. Some ten days ago we referred to this matter at length, and predicted that the Governor and Treasurer would ask for the very extraordinary powers which they have in order to borrow money to meet the ordinary expenses of the State government, and the accruing interest on its debt. Some months since, when Governor Holden announced by letter to certain parties in Richmond, that the January interest would be promptly paid, while expressing our wishes that such would be the case, we gave publicity to our doubts as to its fulfillment. We did so from good motives. We thought then, and time has not changed our belief, that the announcement was calculated to enhance the value of North Carolina Bonds for the benefit of certain disreputable speculators, and to the future injury of the credit of the State.

It now seems absolutely certain that the January interest cannot be met except by sacrifices ruinous to North Carolina, or by placing such powers in the hands of her incompetent and ignorant Treasurer, which must ruin the value of her securities for the future. We are glad that the House has refused to confer upon the Treasurer, although recommended by the Governor, the powers which he asked and urged as necessary to enable him to meet the demands upon him. To have placed the investments of the State in the hands of this man, would have indeed been killing the hen which lays the golden egg.

We truly fear that the finances of the State are in a sad condition. The people will do much to rescue the credit of North Carolina from the dangers which environ it. They can and will, if permitted, redeem every dollar of the honest indebtedness of their State. But they ought not, and we do not believe they will, voluntarily consent to be taxed to pay the wages and corruptions of the thieves who are now bankrupting the credit, as they are destroying the good name, of North Carolina. Our financial matters not only require the attention of men of known and acknowledged probity, but of experienced financial ability. The credit of the State can be destroyed as well by the ignorance and incompetency of those who have it in charge as by their venality and crime. A glance at these officials must make the most sanguine shudder for the financial future of our State. Jenkins, the Treasurer, is known only to fame as a slave trader, having acquired most of his business experience in purchasing negroes in this State and transferring them further South for sale. The brutalizing effects of such a traffic have as illy prepared his mind for the management of the finances of a great State as his manners for an association with gentlemen.

General Estes, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, was, before his entrance into North Carolina in the very questionable social position of Adjutant General to General Kilpatrick, a "youth to fortune and fame unknown." Before he undertook the management of North Carolina finances, he had not the reputation of managing his own, which the close of the war found him in possession of, very successfully. His whole civil experience, which is supposed to qualify him as the financial leader of the House, was received in the discharge of his duties as Revenue Collector for this District, in which office the four fundamental divisions of Mathematics, viz: Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, were required to be exercised with accuracy and rapidity.

French, who aspires to divide with Estes the leadership in this matter, has valuable experience as a Sutler during the war, and Green Grocer since. In the first capacity he is said to have sold poor whiskey and tobacco to soldiers at remunerative prices, and, in the latter, we are satisfied he presided over a first-class establishment with dignity and, so far as we know, with success. The rapid advancement of Abbott and Estes enticed him away from his liquors and provisions, and we find him at once a full-fledged legislator, and a modern financier of the first water. Their votes, with the single exception of an ignorant negro, alone in favor of the ruinous request of the Treasurer to be allowed to mortgage the stocks and bonds of the State in order to borrow money (see proceedings elsewhere), demonstrate the incompetency, at least, of these two men for the positions into which they have been thrust.

Such are the capacities and experiences of the men who are to steer the credit of North Carolina clear of the breakers which threaten it. Our old State can be saved from destruction, but not by placing at the helm impudence, ignorance and malignity. Safety is to be found in the prompt repudiation of such officers by the crew, or else the ship can only be saved by throwing overboard the rich freight, to be devoured by the ravenous sharks which swim so ominously in its wake.

Cabinet Making.

Our exchanges are freely speculating in regard to the *personnel* of President GRANT's Cabinet. We expect they are more busily engaged in fashioning it than the General himself. Any how, he has presented to his view any number of names, and the benefit of the merits and demerits of those mentioned freely discussed. We suppose that while we indulge in no speculations ourselves, our readers are entitled to those of others. Every citizen of the Union feels an interest in the political character and mental calibre of the heads of the departments of the government. Much concern is felt as to the tone of General GRANT's administration, and we suppose we can only judge of that beforehand only by the persons with whom he surrounds himself and places in charge of important trusts.

Charles Francis Adams, of Massachusetts, lately Minister to England, is the only name thus far prominently connected with the State Department. His appointment will depend somewhat upon the claims of other New England men for positions in the Cabinet.

For the Portfolio of War, the present incumbent, General Schofield, seems to be the favorite. Ex-Secretary Stanton and James Hughes, of Indiana, are urged with force by their friends.

For Secretary of the Navy, Admirals Porter and Farragut, and Marshall O. Roberts, of New York, are mentioned. Horace Greeley is the only one prominently urged for Postmaster General, and he is also spoken of in connection with the appointment as Minister to England. Hon. James Wilson, member of Congress from Iowa, General John A. Rawlins, at present chief of staff, and Thomas T. Durant, of Louisiana, are prominent as Attorney General. For Secretary of the Interior, Hon. E. B. Washburne, of Illinois, is the only person yet spoken of.

Cabinet makers seem foiled as to the Treasury Department. This appears to be the favorite position in the Cabinet. The New York *World* speaks with much confidence of the appointment of Washburne, of Illinois. GRANT is reported to have said of this aspirant that "he was a thoroughly honest man." Surely a *sine qua non* for the head of the Treasury Department, but then, financial ability and experience are also absolutely necessary. Mr. Washburne is regarded by his friends, and his Congressional history warrants the estimate, as only a man of mediocre talents.—Mr. Boutwell, of Massachusetts, is also mentioned in this connection. While even more Radical in his sentiments than Mr. Washburne, he is a man of much greater ability and would be a more efficient officer.

These speculative appointments extend beyond the Cabinet, as the following show:

Edwin M. Stanton, of Pennsylvania, Minister to England; Hon. E. B. Washburne, of Illinois, Minister to France; Gen. John A. Rawlins, of Illinois, Minister to Spain; Hon. Benjamin F. Wade, of Ohio, Minister to Russia; J. Lothrop Motley, of Massachusetts, Minister to Austria; Geo. Bancroft, of New York, Minister to Prussia.

"Ballast for the Grecian Bend" is advertised in a New York store window.

"WIDELY KNOWN." It is generally supposed that the Websters, Palmerstons, Gortaschoffs, Metternichs, and Garribaldis of politics are the men of world-wide renown, and so they are where newspapers circulate, but not much beyond. One of our friends, lately returned from China, amuses us with the recital of his journey inland for some distance, where the enquiry oftenest made when he became known as an American, was whether he knew or had ever seen the great chemist of his country, Dr. Ayer, that made the medicines. They use his remedies—many of them have been cured by them—and they speak of him, as if he occupied the whole of America or were at least the great feature of it. A mandarin who had been cured of a malignant ulcer on the hip by his Sarsaparilla, seemed to consider it our principle article of export, and its inventor one of the few men this continent had ever produced worthy the attention of Chinamen.—[New York *News*.

Carolina Farmer.

We are glad to see that with the February number Mr. R. K. BRYAN will take editorial charge of the agricultural department of the *Carolina Farmer*. Mr. BRYAN's abilities as a writer are well known to the readers of the JOURNAL. The address which he read before the Agricultural Society at its recent meeting in this city, and published in our columns, would alone entitle him to rank high as an agricultural writer. Mr. BRYAN is a practical farmer, which will add to the interest and the value of his editorials. We congratulate the readers of the *Farmer* and the agriculturists generally of this section upon the announcement that his experience and talents are to find habitation in the columns of that magazine.

Correspondence of the Raleigh Sentinel.

Under the Poplar.

CHAPEL HILL, NOV. 26, 1868.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Dating a letter to you from a spot so well and widely known as this, I do indeed trust to arrest the attention and arouse the sympathy and interest of those who know it best, and to concentrate their thoughts for a few moments on the present condition of what was once our fountain-head of learning and culture,—a fountain-head, now, alas! choked and dry.

I stand under the old Poplar in the University grounds, where tradition says the early founders of the Institution halted in their search through the "hill country" for a suitable location for the buildings, and, sitting around its giant bole, and under its shadow, with great delight, decided that these groves should be chosen, and here they would build. Be this legend true or not, it is one pleasant to believe, and which the old dwellers on the Hill have always cherished. For seventy-five years this old Poplar has stood pre-eminent among these surrounding forest veterans;—has heard the tuneful College bell ring out the hours of each day and watched the students and Professors as they passed to and from the various halls and lecture-rooms;—has been one of the boundaries of the annual Commencement day procession; has listened to the drums and clarionets of the Band, and spread a benignant shade over the gay throngs that wandered through the campus or pressed into the Chapel in those glorious old June days.

The old tree still stands guard, but over grounds that are now empty and forlorn.—The dry grass rustles to my solitary footsteps, and a rabbit starts out from yonder tangled and dying rosebush. I look around and see nothing to disturb the profound and melancholy stillness. A negro girl in a pink frock is leaning on the College well in front of the South building, and a few of the negro soldiers, who now have possession here, are passing in the distance towards the village. The sun shines down on the old East and West, the Library halls, the Recitation rooms; but the doors are all closed—the gravel walks are rain-washed and grass-grown. The place is haunted.

Strong and ineffaceable memories rush unbidden—and my eyes are dimmed as I gaze on this Niobe sitting thus discrowned and childless.

Is this our University? Do I behold her now in death?

"Ere yet decay's effacing fingers
Have swept the lines where beauty lingers."

Is she to lie thus in the dust with no friendly hand stretched out to offer aid, no voice even raised in her behalf, save the vain lamentations of those who yet linger around her remains.

Chapel Hill is the Deserted Village of the South. Nearly twenty of the best families in the place are leaving and their houses are standing untenanted and desolate.

The business of the village is at a standstill, while I am told that no fewer than six places have been established, where liquor is openly sold. Some of our citizens are even now on their way to California. Some are in Louisiana. Of those whose names have been public property for years—Judge Battle is removing his household goods from his beautiful home—dear to him for 25 years—to begin life afresh and leave behind him the graves of his children.—Prof. Hepburn is in Ohio. Prof. Martin is in Tennessee. Dr. Hubbard is in New York. Prof. Smith is in Lincolnton. Prof. Fetter is preparing to move to Henderson. Prof. Phillips alone has not yet decided on his new home. These all leave the houses they have built, the trees they have planted—the flowers they have tended—the cradles of their children—the graves of their dead. Gov. Swain was more favored in that he fell on sleep in good time, and rests quietly under the cedars over yonder.

Such a disruption—such an exodus, I have never known anywhere. The air is full of farewells—

"Nos patriæ fines, et dulcia linquimus arva,
Nos patriam fugimus; * * * * *
* * * * en quo discordia cives
Perduxit miseros! en queis consevimus agros!"

I write with the hope to touch the hearts, and waken the energies, of those who knew and professed to love Chapel Hill, in the day of her prosperity. Can nothing be done to reinstate her pride of place—to rally around her once more the affections of the people of North Carolina?

ONE OF THE EXILES.

Donn Piatt, the correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, pays the following compliment to the Republican party:

"All the proper people attacked Butler. I am so sick of nice people—proper people—in our party. I abhor the respectable platitudes. Possessing more real rascality than any organization ever known to humanity, we are dying of an overdose of propriety. Our thievish fingers are covered with kid gloves, and we plunder the poor agriculturist and rob the treasury with a grace and refinement really beautiful."

When the jury brought in General Cole not guilty in the recent Albany murder trial, the spectators in the court-room gave three rousing cheers in true mass-meeting style.

[What! Cheer an "assassin" in the land of "higher civilization!"]

OUR RALEIGH CORRESPONDENCE.

The State Debt—Bankruptcy, Ruin and Repudiation—An Empty Treasury—Interest on the Public Debt—Davy Jenkins and the Mountain Bank in the Moon—Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad—Wynne of Franklin, Attempts to Improve his Social Standing—Col. R. B. Cowan—The Tenure of the Legislature—"Our" Governor and the Executive Mansion—Popular Speculations—The Ghost of Murdered Promises—To What Base Uses May We Come—Raleigh Municipal Election, &c., &c.

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 14, 1868.

Dear Journal:—The prediction contained in my last letter, to wit: that the Legislature would manage to add at least $8,000,000 more to our enormous indebtedness, is in process of more speedy accomplishment than I had anticipated. Already appropriations have passed the Senate to the amount of over $6,000,000, and the "daughters of the horse-leach" are still crying, "Give! give!" It is perhaps safe to assert that all of these schemes will pass the House, also, where the "Ring" is equally as compact as in the other branch. And thus goes the old coach, with venality and profligacy in the lead, corruption and extravagance as wheel-horses, and carpet-baggers driving, on—on—on to bankruptcy, *ruin* and REPUDIATION! It is melancholy, indeed, for any man who loves his State, to come to the conclusion that the sooner that *last* precipice is reached the better; and yet the minds of the people are rapidly settling in that direction.

A startling commentary upon this crazy crusade of reckless extravagance was presented on Saturday, when a communication from the Public Treasurer, endorsed by Holden, was received, announcing, in substance, that the Treasury was empty, or nearly so; that it was *absolutely essential* to the preservation of the already impaired credit of the State, that authority should be given the Treasurer to borrow money to meet the accruing January, April and July interests on the public debt and expenses of the government, with additional power to pledge, as collateral security for the payment of the borrowed sum, the stocks and bonds of the State; and that, unless this extra-ordinary and unheard of one-man-power was legitimized, there must ensue a great depreciation of our bonds! The House promptly masculated the proposition by striking out all except the naked warrant to borrow—*if the Treasurer can*—without providing the means of meeting the obligation. So that Davy Jenkins' Power-of-Attorney is worth about as much as a sight draft on the "Mountain Bank" in the Moon! And yet, with this startling disclosure staring it in the face, the Legislature will continue the game of folly, plunder and swindling. What words can I, or any man, employ, fitly to characterize such fatuitous and criminal conduct?

Of a piece with the class of legislation which I have been describing, is the effort making to divide the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad into distinct divisions, under separate organizations, with, of course, another heavy appropriation attached. I regret to say that this nefarious project was also hurried through the Senate, on Saturday, though there is some reason to doubt its success in the House. It should be perfectly evident to the manipulators of this scheme that the project is impracticable, and that a resort to the Courts must quash the whole affair; but there are motives and interests at work in the matter that cannot, and will not, look an "inch beyond the nose," and which are partly mercenary and partly vindictive. It is affirmed by some that the bill was introduced by Wynne, of Franklin, for "a consideration," viz: that inasmuch as by his confession, not five white men in his county will recognize him, he is to be given (if the thing carries) the Presidency of the Western Division, whereby his social surroundings may be improved; but this is hardly so. The railroad would become a sorry *Wind*-mill affair, if it were, in very truth. The real secret of this whole movement is that "Gen." "Judge" gas-bag Logan wants a fat "posish," and certain Radicals, from sheer cowardly malignity, wish to strike a blow at that gallant gentleman and true patriot, ROBERT H. COWAN, because, forsooth, in the late campaign, he dared to lift his eloquent voice in behalf of the Constitution and the Right!

It is understood that leading Radicals set up the high-handed claim that, under the so-called Constitution, the present Legislature was elected for *four* years. No pretension was ever more usurpatory and monstrous, as a reading of the Constitution will show to any honest man of ordinary comprehension. But there are no limits to Radical rascality, and you need not be surprised to see the four years tenure asserted by formal enactment. The result of the late election in the State, though so humiliating to all decent white men, was far from being satisfactory even to the Radicals, when looked at by counties. So viewed, it demonstrates incontestibly that the Legislature would be carried against them at the next biennial election, and hence their apprehensions and alleged purpose. Like blood-suckers that have taken a greedy hold, nothing will pull them off from their gorging but hot water.

"His Excellency" (oh! ye gods and little fishes!) has announced to his obedient subjects that he prefers to remain in his own residence, and will not move to the Executive Mansion. Wicked "rebels" *will* talk, you know, and various speculations are indulged as to the reasons of the Governor's resolve. It was generally supposed that his inordinate vanity would lead him to hang up his gubernatorial hat in a house that had been graced by the residency of Dudley, Morehead, Graham, Bragg, &c. Some malicious people insinuate that fear of the Ku Klux restraineth the valiant man; others, that he was apprehensive that the somewhat crazy walls would topple about his head in revenge for the intrusion of such a man. The more popular impression, however, seems to be that he is afraid that the ghost of his murdered promise to Vance would haunt him there, by day and by night, and that one room especially would recall, with stinging and humiliating recollection, that memorable night when he crawled through a back window and supplicated protection from the man for whose arrest he afterwards advised the Federal authorities to offer a [reward! The very sight of that house is suggestive of mortification and of Benning's Brigade to W. W. Holden.—No wonder that he hates it and will not live there. It is said that Legislative opinion is divided as to whether it shall be made *a place of meeting for the Supreme Court or a nigger school!* The mere entertainment of such an alternative is more insulting to "their Honors" than being stowed away in the garret of the Capitol, isn't it? But who cares?

I find that the municipal election, which comes off in this city early next month, is beginning to excite much interest. The Radicals have nominated a jack-leg preacher for the Mayoralty, by the name of Whitson, who is said to be a very disreputable character, of mean, low principles and associations. He is a "representative man" of the bulk of his party.

DOT.

A WHITE boy met a colored lad the other day and asked him what he had such a short nose for. "I spect's so it won't poke itself into other people's business."

STATE NEWS.

LARGE SALE OF PROPERTY IN NORTH CAROLINA.—Mr. A. G. Eubank, acting for Messrs. Morehead and Smith, executors of the late Col. Peter G. Evans, sold Wednesday, the following property, lying in this county:

The Gaston place, situated about seven miles from the city and containing 5,000 acres, said to be one of the finest tracts in this whole section, was sold to Mr. Manning, of Pittsboro', for about $7,600.

The Long Lake place, ten miles from the city, containing 3,700.

The tract of land containing 566 acres, on which is situated the delectable place known as James City, was next disposed of, Mr. Manning being the purchaser at $6,166.

One hundred shares of A. & N. C. R. R. stock closed the sale, the shares averaging $7 65 each.

This property was among the most valuable in this vicinity before the war, and the astonishingly low prices at which it was sold is a most striking evidence of the depression and poverty of our people.—The same property before the war would have brought five times the amount it did at this sale.—Newbern *Jour. of Com.*

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT.—This tribunal is still in session, with a heavy docket before it.

One of the most interesting cases tried has been that of the United States *vs.* John Carman, for alleged perjury, in swearing falsely to bankrupt schedule, which resulted in the acquittal of the accused.—Messrs. Robert McLean, S. J. Person, L. M. Scott and C. P. Mendenhall appeared for the prosecution, and the Messrs. James T. Morehead, Senior and Junior, for the Defence. The case was argued with much ability on both sides.

Andrew Kiser has been convicted of mail robbery and sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the Penitentiary.

A similar indictment against Obadiah Lee comes up for trial to-day.

Judge Brooks has presided with great efficiency and acceptability, winning the favorable regards of the Barand the public.

Raleigh *Sentinel*.

SNOW STORM.—Our citizens awoke yesterday morning to find the ground covered with snow, which continued

Falling softly
On the barren winter land,
With the lightness
And the whiteness
Of a maiden's soft white hand,

during the greater part of the day, until at least two inches had fallen. Our quiet was disturbed about noon by the sound as of a mighty drove of cattle, each with a cow-bell attached, and, on rushing to the door, we beheld the first sleigh of the season, extemporized for the occasion by Messrs. Radcliff, Hilton and Meade—a board box on plank runners. It is freezing cold as we write, and we shall expect to hear more *bells* to-day, as the sleighing will be much improved.—Newbern *Republican*.

NEW ENTERPRISE.—Several gentlemen of this town held a meeting on last Wednesday night, the object of which was to establish a steamboat line on Neuse River, to run between Newbern and Smithfield.

We confess we were not prepared for this enterprise, but we really hope the gentlemen will meet with success. A meeting will be called at an early day to organize a stock company.—Goldsboro' *Messenger*.

MCDOWELL SUPERIOR COURT began at Marion on Monday last, says the Rutherford Vindicator. Judge Mitchell's charge is spoken of as being moderate, conservative and judicious. Few cases of interest were taken up, except the trial of Capt. Willoughby Avery, of Morganton, on the charge of shooting English last spring.—Hon. B. S. Gaither and Messrs. C. A. Cilley and Col. Folk for the defence. The case came up on Wednesday.

Since writing the above, we learn that Capt. Avery was acquitted, as every one anticipated.—Raleigh *Standard*.

THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD will, it is anticipated, be in running order to Marion, McDowell county, by the middle of June next. Nearly all the contracts between that village and Morganton are approaching completion.

THE BLACK-MAIL COMMITTEE.—After a considerable effort in both Houses, the resolutions empowering a joint committee to investigate the frauds which have been committed by those who have been representing the interests of the State (or falsely pretending to do so) has passed, and this committee is now empowered to proceed in its duties—with what result we can easily conjecture. There isn't a particle of doubt but what the system of "black-mailing" has been carried on to a degree bordering upon thieving of an immense nature, and we trust this committee will be successful in ferreting out this damnable evil, and in causing the rogues who sit in high places to be hurled from their positions—peradventure enough *honest men* can be found in the two Houses to eject them.

Let the good work be proceeded with, and the penitentiary fraud will doubtless come in for a share of the deliberation of this committee.

Since writing the above we notice that Jos. Holden, the Speaker of the House, has seen fit to have made Chairman of this committee General Estes, of New Hanover, than whom a more competent individual could not have been found in that assembly of wise (?) men to defeat the measures sought to be obtained by the efforts of Messrs. Sweet and Robbins. Estes being doubtless as deep in the mire of infamy and cheating as any other member of the Assembly, we don't doubt but that he will effectually block the game of investigation, and the "loil" Senators and Representatives can continue to "grind their axes" while the people pay for the fiddling.—Well, so mote it be—we can only utter a note of warning to these evil doers, as a day of reckoning will come sooner or later.

Weldon *News*.

HOMICIDE.—We learn from the Rutherford *Vindicator* that Mills Higgins, jr., killed Andrew Hunter in Marion, McDowell county, on Tuesday last, by beating him over the head with a club during a general row. It seems that some months ago Mills Higgins, jr., gave Andrew Hunter a note with security. On Tuesday, Hunter meeting Higgins in Marion, demanded other security. Higgins said the name already on the note was sufficient.—Hunter replied that it was worthless, and that he (Higgins) knew it at the time. Higgins said it was a "d—n lie!" whereupon Hunter drew his knife, and made towards Higgins, who hastily wrenched a stake from the picket fence, against which he was leaning, and struck Hunter over the head with such force as to fracture his skull. Dr. Gilkey was immediately sent for but the blood settled so fast on the unfortunate man's brain, that death ensued in about an hour. Higgins gave himself up and was released upon bail by Judge Mitchell.

From the Raleigh Sentinel.

LEGISLATURE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

SENATE.

FRIDAY, Dec. 11, 1868.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Long presented petition No. 2, from certain citizens of Davidson county, praying the General Assembly to reduce the salaries and fees of all salaried officers, beginning with the *per diem* and mileage of members. Referred to the committee on Salaries and Fees.

Mr. Blythe, a petition from the County Commissioners of Henderson, showing the indebtedness of said county to be $6,000, and praying the General Assembly to allow them to increase the taxes so as to meet their indebtedness. Referred to the committee on Finance.

BILLS.

By Mr. Harlington: A bill to amend the charter of the Fayetteville and Florence Railroad Company. Referred to the committee on Corporations.

A message was received from the House transmitting the following bills, &c., which were referred to appropriate committees, to-wit:

Resolution requesting the representatives in Congress, from the State, to use their influence to have the old Postoffices in the State re-opened.

Bill to amend the charter of the town of Washington.

Bill for the relief of A. B. Jones, former tax collector for Buncombe county.

Bill to amend the charter of the town of Elizabeth City, and all acts amendatory of said charter.

Bill authorizing the Commissioners of Johnston county to levy a tax to build Turner's bridge over Neuse River.

Bill to amend section 137, chapter 8, Code of Civil Procedure.

Resolution in relation to a special tax on Whiskey.

Bill to incorporate Carolina Lodge, at Ansonville, Anson county.

Bill to incorporate Durrin's Rock Lodge, in the county of Transylvania.

Bill to incorporate Mt. Olive Lodge, in the county of Wayne.

Bill to continue in force an act authorizing the Town of Fayetteville to issue bonds.

Bill to repeal section 558, chap. 1, title 21, of the Code of Civil Procedure.

CALENDAR.

Bill to consolidate the Atlantic and North Carolina and the North Carolina Railroad Companies was taken up.

After some debate, on motion of Mr. Welker, its further consideration was postponed until Wednesday next, at 11 o'clock.

Bill to amend an act entitled an act to amend the Charter of the Western Railroad Company, ratified 21st of August, 1868. (This bill asks for an additional appropriation of $1,000,000.)

Mr. Moore, of Carteret, moved that its consideration be postponed until Friday next, at 12 o'clock; which was lost:

Mr. Graham offered the following amendment to the 3rd. section: "*Provided*, That the question of making said appropriation shall be submitted to a vote of the people of the State, and approved by a majority of the votes cast upon this question, at an election to be held on the 1st. Thursday in August, 1869;" which was rejected.

AYES.—Messrs. Barrow, Barnes, Beasly, Brogden, Graham, Long, Love, Mason, Melchor, Moore, of Carteret, Shoffner, Sweet, Welker and Wynne.—14.

NAYS.—Messrs. Beeman, Bellamy, Burns, Blythe, Cook, Davis, Eaves, Etheridge, Epps, (colored,) Forkner, Hays, Harrington, Hyman, (colored,) Jones, of Wake, Lassiter, Martindale, Osborne, Purdie, Rich, Richardson, Respass, Scott, Smith, Stephens, White and Wilson.—26.

Mr. Osborne moved to amend by requiring the Stockholders to pay the interest as soon as it becomes due, or surrender the road to the State, and by striking out that portion of the 4th section, which allowed them six months time, and required the State to pay when its interest became due,—thereby putting the Stockholders and the State on the same footing; which was adopted.

Mr. Osborne moved to amend the 7th section as follows, to wit: "That no bonds shall issue under this act, until it shall be certified to the Public Treasurer, by the President and Directors of the Company, that grading on said Road, to the value of $300,000, additional to that already finished, shall be completed and prepared for the superstructure," which was rejected by a vote of 22 nays to 18 ayes.

Mr. Forkner called the previous question.

Mr. Shoffner said he desired to offer an amendment to the bill, and if a measure of this character was to be rushed through in this manner, and Senators on the floor were to be gagged, he could not support the bill, and would renounce his connection with any party who would sanction such action.

The call for the previous question was sustained, and the bill passed its third reading, as follows:

AYES—Messrs. Bellamy, Burns, Blythe, Colgrove, Cook, Davis, Eaves, Etheridge, Epps, (colored,) Forkner, Galloway, (colored,) Hayes, Harrigton, Hyman, (colored,) Jones, of Wake, Lassiter, Mason, Martindale, Moore, of Carteret, Moore, of Yancey, Osborne, Rich, Richardson, Respass, Smith, Stephens, White, Wynne and Wilson—29.

NAYS—Messrs. Barrow, Barnes, Brogden, Graham, Long, Love, Melchor, Purdie, Scott, Shoffner, Sweet and Welker—12.

Mr. Moore, of Carteret, stated that he would vote in the affirmative, in order to move a reconsideration.

This bill was bebated at some length. Messrs. Sweet, Welker, Lindsay, Love and Shoffner opposed it for different reasons. Some would have supported it if proper amendments had been adopted.

Mr. Osborne supported the bill, but preferred that his amendment should be adopted, on the ground that he believed that the roads, which had already been begun, should be completed before other appropriations were made.

Messrs. Richardson and Davis supported the bill.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, Dec. 11, 1868.

The Chair announced Messrs. Malone, Justice, of Henderson, Smith, of Alleghany, and Justice, of Rutherford, as the Committee of Conference for the Western Judicial Circuit.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Jas. H. Harris, of Wake, colored, from the Committee on Propositions and Grievances, reported unfavorably upon Mr. Gunter's bill in reference to the distillation of grain. Placed on Calendar.

Mr. Barnett, from the Committee on Corporations, reported favorably on a number of bills, which will be noticed when they come up.

Mr. Seymour, from the Judiciary Committee, also reported on some bills, which will be noticed when taken from the calendar.

RESOLUTIONS AND BILLS.

By Mr. Smith, of Wayne: A resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to examine title 11, chapter 1, section 263, Code of Civil Procedure, specifying what days Sheriffs may sell property. Lies over.

By Mr. Malone: A bill making the obtaining of goods, under false pretences, a high misdemeanor. Referred.

By Mr. Hicks: A bill giving Clay county the benefit of her bonds. Referred.

By J. S. Leary, colored: A bill in favor of R. W. Hardie, late Sheriff of Cumberland county. Lies over.

J. H. Harris, of Wake, colored: A bill for the better protection of Mechanics and Laborers. Ordered to be printed.

By Mr. Pearson: A bill to define the liability of borrowers of Confederate money in certain cases. Referred.

By Mr. Dixon: A resolution in favor of the Sheriff of Green county. Referred.

By J. S. Leary, colored: A bill to regulate fishing in the Cape Fear River. Referred.

A communication was received and read from the Secretary of State, reporting the cost per volume, &c., of the Code of Civil Procedure. On motion of Mr. Stilley, it was referred to a special committee to ascertain whether the distribution had been made as the law directs.

SPECIAL ORDER, VIZ:

"The bill to provide for the collection of taxes by the State and by the several counties of the State, on property, polls and income," (introduced by the Code Commissioners and recommended for passage by the Finance committee, with such amendments as should be offered on its passage:)

The bill was read, and after debate, passed its second reading with some amendments offered by Mr. Estes, Chairman of the Finance committee, and was ordered to be printed with the proposed amendments for its final reading.

Mr. Estes moved to make the matter the special order for Monday next 11½ o'clock. Carried.

A communication was received from the Governor transmitting a communication from the Public Treasurer, together with a bill from that officer to authorize the Public Treasurer to supply temporary deficiencies in the Treasury. The appropriate disposition was made of the communication and the accompanying documents.

By leave, Mr. Argo offered a resolution (Senate concurring) to hold afternoon sessions from and after the 14th inst.

On motion the rules were suspended and the bill put on its passage.

Mr. Estes moved to amend by saying 7 o'clock in the evening, and Mr. Argo accepted the amendment.

After some debate and attempted amendment, the whole matter was laid on the table, and

The House adjourned until the usual hour to-morrow.

SENATE.

SATURDAY, Dec. 12, 1868.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

Mr. Rich, from the committee on Internal Improvements, to whom was referred a bill to amend the charter of the Chatham and Coalfields Railroad Compny, reported favorably.

Mr. Beeman moved a suspension of the rules, in order that the bill might be put on its several readings.

Mr. Sweet said that he presumed that no one in the General Assembly would object to as many railroad charters being granted as there are days in the year, *provided* they do not ask for an appropriation of money from the State; but, to refer to an old saying, "a burnt child is afraid of fire." It is true that this bill does not ask for an appropriation, but he would be agreeably surprised if there does not come another bill asking for it, *and for millions*.

Mr. Robbins thought the Senator's fears were groundless, so far as *this* bill was concerned. He felt an interest in this road, but, like the Senator, if any appropriation was asked for, he should feel compelled to vote against it, as he should vote against any measure calculated to increase the already enormous debt of the State. He hoped that, because this did *not* ask for anything, it would not be defeated. He was aware that it was rather *unpopular* to present a bill which asked for *nothing*.

Mr. Beeman's motion was adopted and the bill passed its final reading unanimously.

BILLS.

On motion of Mr. Cook, the bill to consolidate the Atlantic and North Carolina, and the North Carolina Railroad Companies was taken up.

The second section reads as follows, to wit:

"That at the first meeting of the stockholders of the corporations aforesaid, a majority of the stock being represented in person, or by proxy, each of said Companies shall decide, by a majority vote, according to the method prescribed in its charter, &c."

Mr. Graham moved to amend said section, 1st line, as follows: Strike out "*the first*" and insert "*a*," and insert individual between "the" and "stockholders;" and in the 3d and 4th lines strike out "*according to the method prescribed in its charter*," and insert "*of the individual stockholders*."

Messrs. Graham, Robbins and Welker supported the amendment. Messrs. Osborne and Welker proposed that the bill should be postponed until the committee in reference to selling the State's interests in railroads, &c., could report.

Messrs. Sweet and Smith opposed the amendment, and it was lost by the following vote, viz:

AYES.—Messrs. Barrow, Barnes, Beasley, Beeman, Eppes, (colored,) Graham, Harrington, Love, Mason, Melchor, McLaughlin, Osborne, Purdie, Robbins, Scott, Shoffner, Welker and Wynne—18.

NAYS.—Messrs. Bellamy, Brogden, Blythe, Colgrove, Cook, Davis, Eaves, Etheridge, Forkner, Hayes, Hyman, (colored,) Lassiter, Legg, Long, Martindale, Moore, of Carteret, Rich, Richardson, Respass, Smith, Sweat and White—22.

The bill then passed.

Bill to amend the Charter of the Williamston and Tarboro' Railroad Company passed its third reading without discussion, viz:

AYES.—Messrs. Barrow, Beasley, Beeman, Bellamy, Burns, Blythe, Colgrove, Cook, Davis, Eaves, Etheridge, Epps, (colored,) Forkner, Harrington, Hyman, (colored,) Lassiter, Lindsay, Martindale, Moore, of Carteret, Rich, Richardson, Respass, Smith, White, Wynne and Wilson—26.

NAYS.—Messrs. Barnes, Brogden, Graham, Leg, Long, Love, Melchor, Moore, of Yancey, McLaughlin, Purdie, Robbins, Scott, Shoffner, Sweet and Welker—15.

Bill to be entitled an act to divide and separate the Eastern and Western divisions of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad came up.

Mr. Robbins opposed the passage of this bill in a very able and lengthy speech.

Messrs. Sweet and Long also opposed the passage of the bill, as it involved an additional appropriation of $2,000,000.

Messrs. Smith and Cook urged its passage, and the bill passed its third reading, as follows, viz:

AYES.—Messrs. Beasley, Beeman, Bellamy, Burns, Blythe, Colgrove, Cook, Davis, Eaves, Etheridge, Epps, (colored,) Forkner Harrington, Hyman, (colored), Lassiter, Lindsay, Love, Mason, Martindale, Moore, of Carteret, Moore, of Yancey, Rich, Respass Smith, Stephens, White, Wynne and Wilson—28.

NAYS.—Messrs. Barrow, Barnes, Brogden, Hayes, Legg, Long, Melchor, McLaughlin, Osborne Purdie, Richardson, Robbins, Sweet, Shoffner and Scott—15.

Mr. Blythe moved a reconsideration of the vote.

Mr. Cook moved to lay the motion on the table; which was carried.

On motion, the Senate adjourned until Monday, 11 o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

informing the House of the passage of the bill to provide for registration of voters in special elections.

RESOLUTIONS AND BILLS.

By G. W. Price, colored: A resolution that, as doubts exist in the minds of a portion of the members of the General Assembly in regard to their term of office; therefore,

Resolved, That it is the sense of this General Assembly that the members composing the present Assembly are elected for two years, beginning in 1868 and expiring in 1870. Lies over.

Mr. Argo renewed his resolution of yesterday, that, from and after the 14th inst., the House hold two sessions daily.

Mr. Argo moved to suspend the rules and adopt at once. Carried.

J. H. Harris, of Wake, colored, moved to amend by striking out half past 3 o'clock and inserting half past 7 P. M.; which

Mr. Argo accepted.

On the passage of the resolution J. S. Leary, colored, called for the yeas and nays. The call being sustained, resulted yeas 64, nays 19.

By leave, Mr. Whitley, from the committee on Corporations, reported favorably upon the bill to amend the charter of the city of Wilmington.

Mr. French moved to suspend the rules and put the bill on its several readings.—Carried.

The bill passed its several readings.

By J. S. Leary, colored: A bill to amend the charter of the town of Fayetteville.

J. S. Leary, colored, moved to suspend the rules and put the bill on its several readings. Carried, and the bill passed.

Mr. Estes moved to reconsider the vote, by which the bill (submitted by the Treasurer) to authorize the Treasurer to supply temporary deficiencies in the Treasury, was referred to the Finance committee. Carried.

On motion of Mr. Estes, the bill was at once taken up and put on its second reading.

Mr. Seymour said this was the first time he had read the bill. He proceeded to offer many objections to it. In his opinion it conferred too large powers on any man, no matter what his capacity and integrity.—He moved to postpone until Monday next.

Mr. Estes said he thought this a little discourteous to *him* after a statement he had just made. He objected to parts of the bill himself. He only wished it to pass its second reading, and then, upon its third, any gentleman could offer any substitutes and amendments they should see fit. Something has to be done to pay the interest falling due, and if we vote down this bill *our bonds will depreciate rapidly*.

Mr. Seymour said, while he disclaimed any intention of being discourteous to the gentleman, it was simply a matter which one member wished to pass and another did not. If it was a matter affecting his personal interest he would most assuredly yield to the request. However, he would withdraw his motion to postpone, and moved to strike out sections 2 and 3.

The following is the bill:

Section 1. *The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact as follows*, To enable the Public Treasurer, in advance of the collection and return of public taxes, to raise money which may be needed to pay the interest on the public debt and other appropriations made by law, the Public Treasurer is hereby authorized, from time to time, to borrow such sums as may be necessary to meet the wants of the Treasury, at a rate of interest not to exceed eight per cent., and on such terms, as to time and place of payment, as may be agreed on; the time of payment not to be later than the day fixed by law for the payment of public taxes into the Treasury.

Sec. 2. As collateral security for the payment of the sums borrowed as above mentioned, the Public Treasurer is authorized to mortgage or pledge all, or any part, of the stocks or bonds held and owned by the State, in or on any railroad, canal or navigation company, in such amounts as may be expedient, and likewise, any interest owned by the State, by lien or otherwise, in respect to such stocks or bonds.

Sec. 3. In case the State fails to repay the sums borrowed, or any part thereof, according to contract, the mortgagee is hereby authorized to sell, after thirty days' advertisement in at least two newspapers published in the city of Raleigh, at public auction, such portion of the stocks or bonds mortgaged, and the interest of the State in relation thereto, as may be necessary to repay said loans. And in case of such sale, it shall be the duty of the Public Treasurer to transfer and convey to the purchaser the stocks or bonds sold, together with such interests and rights as the State may own in relation to the same; provided, that no sale shall take place under this act sooner than the 1st day of October, 1869.

After a debate of some length between Messrs. Seymour, Estes and Sinclair,

Mr. Durham said that they should not pass the bill on its second reading for, if they did, they committed themselves to the principles of the bill. No matter what was the object intended we go on record as being in favor of giving the Treasurer power to hypothecate all the property of the State. The people would not understand it, and he thought the object would be effected by the adoption of Mr. Seymour's motion to strike out the sections conferring such extraordinary powers on one man.—He hoped and believed that if the vote came up on the whole bill it would be voted down.

Mr. Estes: Then the House would be responsible for the depreciation that such action would have on the State bonds. He still insisted that the striking out of those sections would make the whole an absurdity. He could not see why the bill should not pass its second reading, and, on its third reading, be amended to suit the views of the House.

Mr. Seymour said he had heard that there was a scheme on foot to sell the property of the State. He thought such a measure would have come before the House on its own merits, but here it is put forward insidiously, *under the cover* of an appropriation.

Mr. Estes said he once said that the gentleman from Craven (Mr. Seymour) acted in a manner that seemed strange to his friends, but this was the strangest thing that he (Mr. Estes) had yet seen. The gentleman had reflected upon the Governor, Treasurer, and others, who recommended the bill.

Mr. Seymour disclaimed reflecting upon any one.

Mr. Malone said there was no precedent in the history of the State where it had to give a lien to borrow money. It seemed, from this debate, that the credit of the State had run low indeed. He hoped the whole proposition would be voted down.

Mr. French moved to amend by striking out, in line 6, the words "from time to time;" in same section, line 9, strike out the words "and in such terms as to time and place of;" also, in line 10, same section, the words "payment as may be agreed on." Also strike out, in section 2 line 3, the words "or pledge all or any part of the." Also, in line 5, strike out the words "in such amounts," and all of lines 6, 7 and 8; and add to section 2 the words "not to exceed one million of dollars, at their par value."

Mr. Durham had objections to the amendment. It did not say what stocks should be pledged as collaterals. There were some stocks probably not worth over 10 cents, and others worth over 50 cents. It might result that a million dollars worth of stock might be sold at a ruinous sacrifice for a debt of only a few hundred thousand dollars. He again opposed both the amendment and the bill.

After considerable debate, Mr. French's amendments were voted down, and the question recurred upon Mr. Seymour's amendment to strike out sections 2 and 3.

On motion of Mr. Estes, the yeas and nays were called and resulted in a vote of yeas 83, nays 3—(Messrs. Cherry, colored, Estes and French voting in the negative.)

Upon the passage of the bill, as amended, upon its second reading, the yeas and nays were called, and resulted in yeas 62, nays 9.

On motion of Mr. Estes, the bill was made the special order for Monday next, at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Nicholson introduced a bill to amend an act entitled an act to incorporate the Plaster Bank and Salt Works Railroad Co. Referred.

On motion, the House then adjourned until Monday morning, at 11 o'clock.

SENATE.

MONDAY, Dec. 14, 1868.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Rich, from the Committee on Internal Improvements, to whom was referred a bill to incorporate the University Railroad Company, reported favorably.

Mr. Robbins, from the Committee on Corporations, reported favorably on the following bill, viz:

Bill authorizing the Commissioners of the town of Tarboro' to grant the right of way through said town to the Williamston and Tarboro' Railroad Company.

Mr. Brogden, from the Committee on Finance, reported favorably on the following bills, viz:

Bill authorizing certain counties to issue bonds;

Bill to amend and continue in force an act authorizing the Commissioners of Fayetteville to issue bonds.

NOTICE OF BILLS.

Mr. Brogden gave notice that he would introduce a bill to place Duplin county in the 3d, and Onslow in the 4th Judicial District.

A. H. Galloway, colored, gave notice that he should introduce a resolution inquiring what disposition had been made of the State's interest in blockade running, and what had been done with the Literary Fund.

BILLS, &C.

Mr. Robbins, from the Committee on the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, by leave, reported a bill making the annual appropriation of $30,000 to sustain said Institution.

By Mr. Barrow: A resolution rescinding the resolution authorizing the printing of ten copies of each enactment for the use of members.

On motion of Mr. Robbins, it was so amended as to read all private enactments, and the resolution was adopted.

Bill in favor of the Sheriffs of New Hanover and Pasquotank counties. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A message from the Governor, covering a communication from the Public Treasurer, enclosing "a bill to supply the exigencies of the Treasury." Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Bill to amend the Charter of the town of Fayetteville. (This bill has reference to municipal elections and provides that no one living out-side of the corporate limits, though they may own large property within said limits, shall vote in the municipal elections, and further provides that ten days residence shall entitle any one to a vote!!)

Mr. Harrington moved a suspension of the rules, in order to put the bill on its several readings; which was adopted.

Mr. Sweet moved to amend the bill by making its terms general, so as to apply to all the incorporate towns in the state; which was adopted, yeas 29, nays 10.

Mr. Moore, of Yancey, moved to amend by striking out "10 days' residence" and inserting "30." Rejected.

Mr. Shoffner moved to refer the bill to the Committee on Corporations; which was lost, and the bill passed its several readings.

CALENDAR.

The bill to re-enact and confirm certain acts in relation to certain railroad companies in this State came up.

Mr. Rich offered the following amendment, to wit:

Strike out of the bill all relating to the Chatham Railroad Company, and amend by adding the following sections:

Sec. 4. The Public Treasurer is hereby directed whenever the President of the Chatham Railroad Company shall certify that the grading of the road between Cheraw, in South Carolina, and the Gulf or some other point on the Chatham Railroad between Raleigh and the Gulf, has been let to contract, to subscribe to the capital stock of said Company $2,000,000 in behalf of the State, which subscription shall be paid by delivering to the President of said Company coupon bonds of the State at par, of the denomination of $1,000, dated October 1, 1868, and payable thirty years thereafter, bearing six per cent interest, payable semi-annually, principal and interest payable in the city of New York, said bonds to be signed by the Governor, countersigned by the Treasurer and sealed with the Great Seal of the State, and issued under the provisions of chapter 90, Revised Code; *Provided*, That said bonds shall only be issued on the surrender of a like amount of bonds of the State heretofore issued under "An act to amend the charter of the Chatham Railroad Company," ratified 15th of August, 1868, on which surrender the same amount of bonds by said Company to the State under the said act shall be cancelled.—Said subscription shall be preferred stock, and pay a dividend of six per cent before any dividend shall be declared on the other stock.

Sec. 5. In order to provide for the payment of the interest which may accrue on the bonds issued as above mentioned, there is hereby and shall be annually levied and collected a special tax of one-twentieth of one per cent on the taxable property of the State, collectable and payable into the Treasury as other public taxes.

Sec. 6. In all meetings of stockholders of said Company, the State shall, for and in behalf of its stock, be entitled to a vote equal to one-third of that cast by individual stockholders, and all the officers of said Company shall be elected by the stockholders as heretofore.

Sec. 7. The capital stock of said Chatham Railroad Company is hereby increased to three million two hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. Barrow moved an amendment to the amendment (6th section), by adding in the second line, after the word "to" the words "*a pro rata*," and by striking out all in the third line except "vote;" striking out "heretofore" in fifth line, and adding "herein provided."

After considerable discussion, Mr. Barrow's amendment was rejected, and the original amendment was adopted, and the bill passed its third reading as follows:

AYES—Messrs. Barrow, Bellamy, Burns, Blythe, Colgrove, Cook, Davis, Eaves, Epps, colored, Fowler, Galloway, colored, Hayes, Harrington, Hyman, colored, Jones, of Wake, Lassiter, Martindale, Rich, Richardson, Respass, Smith, Stevens and White—23.

NAYS—Messrs. Barnes, Brogden, Etheridge, Love, Mason, Melchor, Moore, of Carteret, Moore, of Yancey, McLauchlin, Purdie, Robbins, Scott, Shoffner, Sweet and Welker—15.

On motion, the Senate adjourned until this evening, at 7½ o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, Dec. 14, 1868.

Messages were received from the Senate informing the House of the passage of the following bills and resolutions:

Bill to separate the Eastern and Western divisions of the Wilmington, Charlotte & Rutherford Railroad. Referred to the committee on Internal Improvements.

House bill amending the charter of the Cheraw and Coalfields R. R. Ordered to be enrolled.

Resolution in relation to Banks. Placed on Calendar.

A message was received from the Governor, transmitting the report of the quarantine officer at the port of Wilmington.—Ordered to be printed.

BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, &C.

By Mr. Vest: A bill to stay all debts six months, by the debtor giving security for their payment.

Mr. Vest said that his object in offering this bill was that he believed the Supreme Court would set aside the present stay law, and the people would have no protection if this bill was not passed. The bill was appropriately referred.

SPECIAL ORDER, VIZ:

A bill to be entitled "An act to authorize the Public Treasurer to supply temporary deficiencies in the Treasury."

Mr. Estes offered the following as section 2:

"As collateral security for the repayment of the amount borrowed as above mentioned, the Public Treasurer is authorized to pledge such an amount, from the first moneys received from the tax lists of 1869, and to pay the same from the first money received into the Treasury from any other source." Carried.

Mr. Estes offered an amendment to section 1, to strike out in line 5, the words "and other appropriations made by law;" also, in line 6, the words "from time to time;" also, in line 8, the words "wants of the Treasury," and insert the words "interest due Jan., 1869."

Mr. Malone moved to further amend by striking out, in lines 8 and 9, same section, the words "not to exceed 8 per cent." and insert the words "at a legal rate of interest."

Messrs. Estes and Downing opposed this amendment.

Mr. Malone, in defence of his amendment, said:

The gentleman from New Hanover says my object is to defeat the bill and to prevent the payment of the interest to fall due in January. I deny the charge. Having taken an oath to support the constitution (which makes its obligatory on this body to provide for the interest) I shall faithfully support the same. But if I were disposed to impute motives I might say that the effect of the legislation of this House is to place all the sacred interest of North Carolina in the hands of the capitalists of the country. I would ask why the State has lost her credit? Under a resolution, ratified 3d day of August, 1868, the Treasurer did borrow $100,000 at six per cent. But now it seems that after the State has been thoroughly reconstructed—after the constitution has provided for this payment by taxation, the credit of the old North State has gone down until we have to pay 8 per cent. interest. Five months ago we could get money at 6 per cent.; now *behold*, we must not only give collateral security, but must give 8 per cent.

Is it not strange that, after all that has been said about the looming credit of the old North State, she has made such a terribly bad reputation that it is now difficult to borrow money at all. It is known that the government of the United States, and even individuals, can borrow money at 3 and 4 per cent. If this is the condition of North Carolina it maugurs badly for the future. If our credit is getting worse it is better to stop reconstruction.

We have fallen on strange times indeed. The whole interest of the State seems tending rapidly into the grasping power and control of the capitalists who intend to take the advantage of our pressing necessities. The people must suffer greatly over this unparalleled system of legislation. I hope the amendment will pass. The Treasurer should be bound to make all effort to effect the loan at 6 per cent., which is in fact the legal rate of interest.

Messrs. Vest and French both opposed it.

Mr. Sinclair took the floor in opposition to Mr. Malone's amendment.

Mr. Estes called the previous question, and, the call being sustained, the question recurred upon Mr. Malone's amendment.

Mr. M. called for the yeas and nays, and, the call being sustained, resulted: Yeas 43, Nays 54.

The question recurred upon Mr. Estes' amendment. The question being put, it was carried.

Upon the passage of the bill, as amended, the roll was called, and the vote stood, yeas 70 nays 22.

The following gentlemen voted in the negative, viz.

Messrs. Allison, Boddie, Durham, Ellis, Ferebee, Gibson, Green, Hawkins, Hodnett, Humphries, Moore, Nicholson, Painter, Pou, Shaver, Smith, of Alleghany, Sweat, colored, Thompson and Williams, of Harnett.

Mr. Estes moved to reconsider the vote.

Mr. Laflin moved to lay that motion on the table. Carried.

By consent Mr. Laflin, from the Committee on Internal Improvements, reported upon the following bills:

A bill to amend the charter of the Williamston and Tarboro' Railroad, recommending its passage, with certain amendments.

A bill to be entitled an act amendatory of the act to incorporate the Western North Carolina Railroad and acts amendatory thereto, recommending its passage.

Mr. Laflin now moved to suspend the rules and put the bills just reported upon their second reading, then print and let the discussion come on their third reading.

Mr. Seymour opposed the motion. He would not be hurried into voting thus blindly for the appropriation of millions. He was for internal improvements, but he wished to have a fair opportunity to consider. He therefore moved to print and make them the special order for the 5th of January.

Mr. Laflin moved to lay the motion on the table, and for a call of the yeas and nays.

Pending that motion, the House, on motion of Mr. Malone, adjourned until 7½ o'clock this evening.

SCHOOL REPORTS.—We have at last been enabled to obtain a glimpse of the consolidated school report for the county of New Hanover, which came in so irregularly that the Commissioners were unable to complete its compilation until last evening.—This report is for the several precincts in the county and shows the number of children between the ages of 6 and 21 years, both white and colored. It was compiled in accordance with the provisions of the State Constitution and acts passed by the General Assembly, with a view to the carrying out of the Public School System and that the county may be divided into Districts for this purpose. The following are the figures shown by the report, which we condense for public convenience:

PRECINCTS.	WHITE. MALE.	WHITE. FEMALE.	COL'RD MALE.	COL'RD FEMALE.	TOTAL
Wilmington—1st Ward	200	177	230	344	951
" —2d "	159	176	173	194	702
" —3d "	203	187	162	197	749
" —4th "	126	115	97	147	485
Federal Point	32	41	35	2	131
Masonboro'	47	27	25	24	123
Middle Sound	119	108	178	153	558
Holly Shelter	76	58	99	77	310
Topsail Sound	115	89	180	162	546
Upper Black River	149	131	198	200	678
Lower Black River	66	48	78	86	278
Cain uck	56	44	58	68	226
Piney Woods	178	132	116	98	524
South Washington	139	123	128	112	506
Rocky Point	91	56	101	87	335
Long Creek	99	105	106	122	432
	1855	1660	1959	2061	7536

The report further shows that there are 41 public school houses now in the county; and that it fixes the number to be supplied at 64. The freedmen's schools are 8 in number, with 588 pupils.

There are also 32 select schools in the county, with 710 pupils. Of these the city contains 20, with over 500 pupils.

This report has been forwarded to Raleigh, and measures will be speedily taken for the establishment of the public schools contemplated by the system.

"I TELL YOU WHAT, SIR," said a Yankee of his opponent, "that man don't amount to a sum in the arithmetic; add him up, and there's nothing to carry!"

OUR LUMBERTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Outrages in Robeson.

LUMBERTON, N. C., Dec. 14th, 1868.

Messrs. Editors: I saw in your paper of the 11th where you asked for information concerning the band of robbers that infest this county. As to there being such a gang in this county there is not the least doubt, it being headed by a murderer, whose name is H. B. Lowery, a mulatto, the same person that Gov. Worth offered a reward of three hundred dollars for, he being the accused murderer of Mr. Barnes, one of the best and most peaceable citizens there was in the county. Lowery murdered him on his way to church, built an ambush on the side of the road and shot him from it. After his victim fell he went to see if he was dead, but he was not. Mr. Barnes then appealed to him not to shoot again. He then presented the gun at his head and fired, tearing one side of his face off. He then left him, thinking he was dead, but he lived long enough to give an account of the murderous deed.

Two or three months ago Mr. Durham Lewis was attacked on the road, and robbed of all the money he had about his person. About the same time Mr. McNair, another citizen of the county, had his house sacked of everything valuable. A few weeks after that Mr. Pickett Mercer was attacked on his way home and robbed of all the money he had with him, amounting to more than seven hundred dollars. Immediately after that daring deed had been transacted Mr. McQueen, an old citizen of the county, was attacked while he was sitting in his house, by a man as black as soot could possibly make him, with a cloth tied around his head, demanding Mr. McQueen to surrender, at the same time presenting a pistol with one hand and holding a gun in the other. There was another standing in the door, masked, and others scattered all over the house, appropriating to their own benefit everything valuable they could find, including all of Mr. McQueen's clothing. A few days after that Mr. McKenzie heard some one disturbing his hogs; he went out to see what it was, and was fired upon five times (the last shot taking effect), by some one secreted side of a fence. There are other robberies that I have not time to mention. It is thought by nearly all that the gang headed by this negro Lowery, are the guilty parties. Lowery was caught eighteen or twenty months ago, and confined in the Whiteville jail, from which he immediately escaped. The Sheriff of this county and the Bureau Agent went to capture him ten or fifteen days ago; they succeeded, and brought him in, confined him in jail without ironing him, while there is a white man confined and ironed for stealing a horse, a small crime compared with murder. The white man and the other prisoners get their common jail food, while Lowery had to be fed with delicacies, notwithstanding he was getting one more meal than the others. Lowery escaped Saturday night while the jailor went in his cell to give him his supper. The jailor said he presented a pis ol and dirk at him, and told him he had not been treated as promised when he consented to come there, and not to attempt to stop him, if he did he would kill him. He then walked deliberately out, and I expect will soon resume his old trade murdering and stealing.—There is a mystery to be unraveled. I will say no more, but wait with patience to see what will next turn up. All we want is JUSTICE.

For the Journal.

Further Particulars of Outrages Committed in Robeson.

LUMBERTON, Dec. 14.

Messrs. Editors:—As there seems to be some misapprehension in regard to the order of Gov. Holden to the Sheriff of Robeson in connexion with the band of robbers which have infested this county for the last five years, I will give you a short history of the matter, so far as time and space will permit:

This band of robbers and thieves was organized during the war, about the year 1864, by some escaped Yankee prisoners from Florence, who concluded to take up rather than go back into the Federal army. They had no difficulty in finding recruits here among deserters, mulattoes, &c., and at once began operations, having robbed, perhaps, over one hundred persons and killed a number. The amount of property stolen by these scoundrels was very considerable, and many of the best citizens were plundered at the hour of midnight. About the close of the war the Yankee portion of the band took their departure for Wilmington, carrying along the greater portion of the jewelry, watches, &c., that had been stolen from the people.

Some two or three of the Lowrys who belonged to the band had been shot, but several were still left, among them one Henry Berry Lowry, the chief, who had in December, 1864, ambushed and killed James P. Barnes, one of our best citizens; also, Brant Harris was shot by this fellow while riding along the public road. A reward of $300 was offered two years ago by Gov. Worth, for this scoundrel, and about ten days since he was brought in by Sheriff Howell and Dr. Thomas, the Bureau man, without resistance, they having made promises that he would be carried to Raleigh and be tried, and everything fixed up right. The jailor, Eb Jones, was instructed not to iron or chain this miserable outlaw, and the result is that on Saturday night when the jailor enters, he is confronted by this fellow with pistol and bowie knife, and ordered not to speak at his peril; the prisoner walks forth as free as air, and makes his escape; thus, by the unjustifiable conduct of the Sheriff, this great criminal who has twice escaped prison is let loose upon the public to plunder and rob. The order of Governor Holden is a good one, and should be strictly carried into effect. As there has never been any effort by the civil authorities to put down this gang, we think it is time that some steps were taken to that end. We learn that Holden has been petitioned by the people to take some steps in the matter.

This fellow Lowry is a cross between an Indian and mulatto, and has committed over one dozen murders in his life.

ROBESON.

The Speakership.

A Washington correspondent writes: It is generally understood here that Mr. Blaine's speech in the House of Representatives Friday was bid No. 1 for the speakership of the Forty-first Congress. It is now expected that General Banks and Mr. Dawes, Mr. Blaine's most formidable competitors, will shortly follow suit. This question is already beginning to agitate the minds of Congressmen, but so far there seems to be a division of opinion as to the merits of the respective candidates and no one is willing to commit himself positively at this early day. There is a minority who would like to see General Butler wield the House gavel, and there is no telling where the Massachusetts member, with his proverbial good luck, may turn up before the 4th of March.

Long legged gentlemen's boots are advertised by one of the Boston stores.—Plenty of male bipeds of that elongated capacity hereabouts.

Why is Buckingham Palace the cheapest ever erected? Because it was built for one sovereign and finished for another.

North Carolina and Van Dieman's Land.

The New York *Tribune* says that in Van Dieman's Land "the most notorious criminals occupy the highest places in the government; trickery and fraud are matters of merit, and crime finds a secure asylum."

If localities were changed the picture would apply as well to North Carolina as to Van Dieman's Land. How much energy the *Tribune* displays to find out the short comings of foreigners, and how much energy it displays to hide the short-comings of its own friends! Change names in the above article and alas, how well the description applies to the present political condition of North Carolina.

LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec 17—Noon.

In the Senate to-day a bill was passed extending the time for the payment of the tax on tobacco to the 15th of February. It goes to the President.

Bills removing political disabilities from certain individuals were presented from all quarters.

The attention of the House this morning was occupied by eulogies on Thad. Stevens.

Menard, colored, from Louisiana, has credentials from Governor Warmouth, dated November 25, under the broad seal of Louisiana. Menard will present them to-morrow.

In the Senate the House bill was passed effectually authorizing militia organizations in the reconstructed States, excepting Georgia. It goes to the President.

Hunt, Menard's contestant, is in the city.

New York Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17—Noon.

Stocks very strong. Money active at 7 ₱ cent. premium. Sterling Exchange 109¼. Gold 134¾. Five-twenties of '62 110¼. North Carolina Sixes 65½; new 62½.

Flour—quotations unchanged. Wheat firmer and more active. Corn dull and declining. Mess Pork firmer at $27. Lard firmer—steam rendered, in bbls., 16¾@17¼ cents. Cotton steady—middling uplands 25½ cents. Spirits Turpentine firm at 44¼@45 cents ₱ gallon. Rosin quiet, but firm at $2 35@$2 45 for strained common and good strained. Freights quiet.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla,

FOR PURIFYING THE BLOOD.

The reputation this excellent medicine enjoys, is derived from its cures, many of which are of a truly marvellous character. Inveterate cases of Scrofula, where the system seemed utterly given up to corruption, have yielded to this compound of anti-strumous virtues. Disorders of a scrofulous type, and affections which are merely aggravated by the presence of scrofulous matter, have been radically cured in such numerous instances, in every settlement in the country, that the public do not need to be informed here that it is in most cases a specific and absolute remedy.

Scrofulous poison is one of the most destructive enemies of our race. Often, this unseen and unfelt tenant of the organism undermines the constitution, and invites the attack of enfeebling or fatal diseases, without exciting a suspicion of its presence. Again, it seems to breed infection throughout the body, and then, on some favorable occasion, rapidly develop into one or other of its hideous forms, either on the surface or among the vitals. In the latter, tubercles may be suddenly deposited in the lungs or heart, or tumors formed in the liver. These facts make the occasional use of the *Sarsaparilla* as a preventive, advisable.

It is a mistake to suppose that so long as no eruptions or humors appear, there must be no scrofulous taint. These forms of derangement may never occur, and yet the vital forces of the body be so reduced by its subtle agency, as materially to impair the health and shorten the duration of life. It is a common error, also, that scrofula is strictly hereditary. It does, indeed, descend from parent to child, but is also engendered in persons born of pure blood. Low living, indigestion, foul air, licentious habits, uncleanliness, and the depressing vices generally, produce it. Weakly constitutions, where not fortified by the most constant and judicious care, are peculiarly liable to it. Yet the robust, also, whose turbid blood swells the veins with an apparently exuberant vitality, are often contaminated, and on the road to its consequences. Indeed, no class or condition can depend on immunity from it, nor feel insensible to the importance of an effectual remedy.

In *St. Anthony's Fire, Rose or Erysipelas*, for *Tetter, Salt Rheum, Scald Head, Ringworm, Sore Ears and Eyes*, and other eruptive or visible forms of the diseases caused primarily by the scrofulous infection, the *Sarsaparilla* is so efficient as to be indispensable. And in the more concealed forms, as in *Dyspepsia, Dropsy, Heart Disease, Fits, Epilepsy, Neuralgia*, and other affections of the muscular and nervous systems, the *Sarsaparilla*, through its purifying power, removes the cause of the disorder and produces astonishing cures.

The Sarsaparilla root of the tropics does not by itself achieve these results. It is aided by the extracts combined with it, of still greater power. So potent is this union of healing virtues, *Syphilis* or *Venereal* and *Mercurial Diseases* are cured by it, though a long time is required for subduing these obstinate maladies by any medicine. *Leucorrhœa* or *Whites, Uterine Ulcerations*, and *Female Diseases* in general, are commonly soon relieved and ultimately cured by the invigorating and purifying effect of our *Sarsaparilla*. *Rheumatism* and *Gout*, often dependent on the accumulations of extraneous matters in the blood, have their remedy also in this medicine. For the *Dyspepsia, Complaints* torpidity, inflammation, abcess, etc., caused by rankling poisons in the blood, we unhesitatingly recommend the *Sarsaparilla*.

This medicine restores health and vigor where no specific disease can be distinguished. Its restorative power is soon felt by those who are *Languid, Listless, Despondent, Sleepless*, and filled with *Nervous Apprehensions* or *Fears*, or who are troubled with any other of those affections symptomatic of weakness. Many, after taking it for *General Debility*, have written us of the youthful vigor imparted to their nervous system, which seemed buoyant with that prolific life they thought departed on the advance of age. Others, whose fountains of life were always sterile, acknowledge their obligations to it for an obvious change.

Ayer's Ague Cure,

For Fever and Ague, Intermittent Fever, Chill Fever, Remittent Fever, Bumb Ague, Periodical or Bilious Fever, &c., and indeed all the affections which arise from malarious, marsh, or miasmatic poisons.

As its name implies, it does *Cure*, and does not fail. Containing neither Arsenic, Quinine, Bismuth, Zinc, nor any other mineral or poisonous substance whatever, it in nowise injures any patient. The number and importance of its cures in the ague districts, are literally beyond account, and we believe without a parallel in the history of medicine. Our people is gratified by the acknowledgments we receive of the radical cures effected in obstinate cases, and where other remedies had wholly failed.

Unacclimated persons, either resident in, or travelling through miasmatic localities, will be protected by taking the *AGUE CURE* daily.

For *Liver Complaints*, arising from torpidity of the Liver, it is an excellent remedy, stimulating the Liver into healthy activity.

Prepared by DR. J. C. AYER & CO., Practical and Analytical Chemists, Lowell, Mass., and sold all round the world.

PRICE, $1.00 PER BOTTLE.

For *Liver Complaints*, arising from torpidity of the Liver, it is an excellent remedy, stimulating the Liver into healthy activity.

Prepared by DR. J. C. AYER & Co., Practical and Analytical Chemists, Lowell, Mass., and sold all round the world.

PRICE, $1.00 PER BOTTLE.

Sold in Wilmington by E. WILLIS, W. H. LIPPITT and all Druggists and Dealers everywhere. 67-eod1w-1tw

THE NUPTIAL ALTAR.

ESSAYS FOR YOUNG MEN, on the Errors, Abuses, and Diseases, which create impediments to MARRIAGE, with the humane view of treatment and cure, sent by mail in sealed letter envelopes, free of charge. Address HOWARD ASSOCIATION, Box P., Philadelphia, Pa.

sept 22 305-d&w3m

Sale of Valuable Real Estate.

ON WEDNESDAY, the 20th day of January next, I will offer for sale by public auction, at the Court House in the city of Wilmington, the valuable PLANTATION in the county of New Hanover, lying on the south side of the Eastern branch of the Cape Fear river, containing about **850 ACRES**, part of the Rocky Point lands, well known as the VATTS, or PERRY PLANTATION, and now occupied by Mr. E. H. McQuigg. And at the same time and place about **175 Acres of land on the other side of said river**, and nearly opposite said Vatts Plantation. One-fourth of the purchase money will be required in cash on the day of sale and the residue in three equal annual payments to be made in one, two and three years thereafter, with interest from said day of sale. The purchaser will be required to give satisfactory bonds for the deferred payments, secured by a mortgage on the premises, containing a power to sell if default is made on any payments for sixty days after it may be due; and also to pay for drafting necessary conveyances.

This sale is made by Mrs Bettie A. Lane, under a conveyance in mortgage of said premises heretofore made to her.

WM. A. WRIGHT, Attorney.

dec 18 45—

Wilmington Wholesale Prices Current.

☞ It should be understood that our quotations generally represent the wholesale prices. In filling small orders, higher rates have to be paid.

BEESWAX, ₱ lb	36 @	37	
BRICKS, ₱ M.	10 00 @	15 00	
BARRELS, Sp'ts T., each,			
2nd hand	2 00 @	2 50	
New	2 50 @	3 50	
CANDLES, ₱ lb.,			
Tallow	18 @	20	
Adamantine	21 @	23	
Sperm	50 @	55	
COFFEE, ₱ lb.,			
Java	37 @	40	
Laguayra	26 @	28	
Rio	19 @	24	
St. Domingo	25 @	28	
COTTON, ₱ lb.,			
Ord. to Mid'g	20 @	23	
Strict Mid'g	00 @	23	
COTTON BAGGING,			
Gunny, ₱ yd	23 @	25	
Dundee	26 @	28	
Rope, ₱ lb	7 @	10	
CORN MEAL, ₱ bushel	1 35 @	1 40	
DOMESTICS,			
Sheeting, ₱ yard	12 @	16	
Yarn, ₱ bdl	00 00 @	2 00	
FEATHERS, ₱ lb	65 @	75	
FISH, ₱ bbl.,			
Mackerel,			
No. 1	22 00 @	25 00	
No. 2	18 00 @	20 00	
No. 3	14 00 @	16 00	
Mullets	7 25 @	10 00	
Herring,			
East	6 00 @	0 00	
N.C.roe	0 00 @	0 00	
do cut,	8 50 @	9 00	
do gross	0 00 @	7 00	
Dry Cod, ₱ lb	9 @	10	
FLOUR, ₱ bbl., Northern			
Family	9 50 @	15 50	
Superfine	7 00 @	8 00	
Fine	6 00 @	6 50	
NORTH CAROLINA,			
Family	11 50 @	12 00	
Superfine	11 00 @	11 50	
GLUE, ₱ lb	20 @	24	
GUNNY BAGS	30 @	32	
GUANO, Peruvian,			
Per ton	90 00 @	95 00	
GRAIN, ₱ bushel,			
Corn	1 20 @	1 25	
Oats	75 @	90	
Peas, Cow	1 00 @	1 05	
Rice, rough	1 25 @	1 50	
Carolina	9 @	9½	
HIDES, ₱ lb.,			
Green	9 @	9½	
Dry	12½ @	15	
HAY, ₱ 100 lbs.,			
Eastern	1 30 @	1 35	
Northern	80 @	90	
IRON, ₱ lb.,			
English, ass'd	8 @	10	
American, ref.	0 @	10	
American, sheer	9 @	10	
Swede	10 @	12	
Hoop, ₱ ton	140 00 @	145 00	
LIQUORS, ₱ gal., (dom.)			
Whiskey	1 50 @	2 25	
Bourbon	2 00 @	4 00	
N. E. Rum	2 00 @	3 00	
Gin	4 00 @	7 00	
Brandy	4 00 @	9 00	
do Apple	2 75 @	3 00	
do Peach	3 00 @	3 50	
LUMBER, (River,			
Flr Bds	15 00 @	17 00	
Wide do	12 00 @	14 00	
Scantling	10 00 @	12 00	
LIME, ₱ bbl	0 00 @	0 00	
From store	0 00 @	1 75	
MOLASSES, ₱ gallon,			
Cuba, hhds	45 @	47½	
do bbls	50 @	52½	
Sugar house	0 @	87½	
do bbls	38 @	40	
Syrup, bbls	60 @	1 00	
NAVAL STORES,			
Turpentine ₱ 280 lbs			
Virgin	0 00 @	2 90	
Yellow dip	0 00 @	2 90	
Hard	0 00 @	1 90	
Tar, ₱ bbl	0 00 @	2 40	
Tar, in ordr	2 30 @	2 40	
Pitch, City	3 00 @	3 25	
Rosin, pale	4 50 @	5 50	
do No. 1	2 50 @	4 50	
do No. 2	0 00 @	1 65	
do No. 3	0 00 @	1 60	
Spirits Turpentine, ₱ gal	00 @	42	
NAILS, ₱ lb.,			
Cut	5 75 @	6 00	
OILS, ₱ gallon,			
Sperm	0 00 @	3 00	
Linseed	1 40 @	1 50	
Machinery	1 75 @	2 00	
Kerosene	38 @	40	
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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

WILMINGTON, N. C.,

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1868.

Agricultural Convention.

To the Farmers, Planters, Merchants and Mechanics of the Lower Cape Fear Agricultural District, composed of the Counties of New Hanover, Brunswick, Bladen, Columbus, Robeson, Richmond, Sampson, Duplin and Onslow:

We, the undersigned, were appointed a committee by the late Agricultural Convention, held at Wilmington, to issue a call for an adjourned Convention for the 19th of the present month (December).

The object of the adjourned Convention is to draw together as many of the farmers, planters, and those dependent upon them for business, as possible, for the purpose of disseminating information, interchanging views, and by acting in concert and co-operation, to press forward the great agricultural interests of the Lower Cape Fear country, as well as that of all Eastern Carolina.

No time should be lost in preparing for the next crop. No opportunity should be lost in obtaining all the facts that will tend to develop and improve the culture of our land. Let us, then, all or as many as possible, meet in Wilmington on the 19th of December, and unite in organizing an *Agricultural Association*, with the needed powers and means to collect and disseminate as much knowledge upon all branches of production as it may be possible to obtain.

With our climate inducing early growth, with the thousands of acres of waste land lying along the lines of our railways and rivers, within a few hours of Wilmington, the commercial centre, and within twenty-four (24) hours of the great markets of the North—where the untold wealth of our lands in grapes and other fruits, vegetables, corn, cotton, peanuts and the like, find a ready sale, and at highly remunerative prices—shall we not move in every good work that promises to develop, to instruct us and bring back not only the prosperity of former years, but a thousand fold greater wealth to our people.

We invite you all to come, and let us reason together. Several able speakers, we believe, will be present, and valuable reports on various subjects of interest will be made.

Railroads will give return tickets from all points, it is understood.

S. S. SATCHWELL,
S. L. FREMONT,
For the Committee.

Papers friendly to the call will please insert.

Robeson County

It would seem that the Senator and Representatives from Robeson county regard the comments of the Raleigh *Sentinel* upon the recent proclamation of Governor Holden to suppress lawlessness in that county, and copied in our columns, as doing the Governor and themselves injustice. It is never our purpose to deal unjustly with any one. Wilfully to misrepresent opponents—to abuse individuals for "party purposes"—is a base use of the public press, and would be following too closely upon the disgraceful example of the Governor himself, while an Editor, to recommend such a course to our favor.

The article in question was clipped out of the *Sentinel* and inserted among the items of interest occurring in the State.—We disapproved then, as we disapprove now, of the proclamation, for we know too well what use will be made of extraordinary powers by such county officials as some of our counties are cursed with, and the endorsement of the Governor and the members of the Legislature from Robeson, could hardly be expected to have much weight with us. All of these men have shown a spirit of bitter and unrelenting malignity towards what they are pleased to term the "disloyal" people of the State, and we are sometimes inclined to believe that their denunciations of citizens amounts to nothing more than that they are true to North Carolina, and sympathize with the State in her hour of humiliation and distress.

These members allege that the proclamation of the Governor was issued at their interposition, and that they acted upon a petition from quite a number of the best citizens of the county, mostly Democrats, urging upon them the necessity of doing something to protect life and property from a "*desperate band of thieves and robbers*" which infest that and adjoining counties.

If we believed that the official upon whom the Governor confers such arbitrary and extraordinary powers would be actuated only for the good of the people—would use this power "prudently and judiciously," we would commend this order to the Sheriff of Robeson. If there are men engaged in acts of lawlessness and violence they should be most summarily punished, and civil officers should exercise the full extent of their legal powers to ferret out and bring to justice such offenders. We take it for granted that this "desperate band of thieves and robbers" who infest Robeson county are similar to those who infest almost every other county, composed for the most part of idle and vagabond negroes, joined by a few vicious whites, who roam through the country and live by stealing and robbing. It is one of the evil results of the demoralization of the war, and the sudden revolution in the condition of the negro.

"Our" Governor has shown a very fruitful disposition to give all these disturbances a political turn, and it is this tendency of his proclamation or order which we desired to deprecate, as well in the unnecessary and extravagant patronage he gave to his printing office in having an order for one person printed, as in the Ku-Klux ring the document evidently has.

If our friends in Robeson will keep us advised as to the frequency and character of these outrages alleged to be committed by "organized bands of robbers," they will confer a favor and enable us to speak more advisedly upon this subject. It appears a little singular if they warranted the extraordinary proclamation of the Governor, that they have not found their way into the papers of the State—at least the *Standard*.

North Carolina Conference.

The North Carolina Annual Conference of the M. E. Church South, commenced its session at Statesville, N. C., on Wednesday, the 22d instant, and adjourned on Monday last, having had a most harmonious session. Bishop WIGHTMAN presided ably over the deliberations of the body. The attendance of Ministers and lay delegates, as well as visitors, was large. The people of Statesville, of all denominations, received the hearty thanks of the Conference for their generous and elegant hospitality during its session. Rev. John S. Long and Rev. J. B. Williams were granted locations at their request. But two probations for the ministry were received. Rev. Dr. McFerrin, of Nashville, and Rev. Dr. Duncan, President of Randolph Macon College, were in attendance from other Conferences.

The following is the list of the appointments for the ensuing year, for which we return our thanks to the Rev. Mr. DALLY:

RALEIGH DISTRICT.
L. L. HENDREN, P. E.

Raleigh City Station—H T Hudson
Wesley Chapel—To be supplied
Wake Circuit—J J Hines
Smithfield—A B Raven
Tar River—P J Carraway
Louisburg—J A Cunninggim
Granville—J Tillett
Henderson—H H Gibbons.
Nashville—M J Hunt
Wilson—Supplied by J J Carden
Editor Episcopal Methodist—J B Bobbitt
Agent Sabbath Schools—J Reid

HILLSBORO' DISTRICT.
W. H. BOBBITT, P. E.

Hillsboro'—L W Crawford
Company Shops—N H D Wilson
Chapel Hill and Haw River—O J Brent
Durham's—R S Webb
Pittsboro—J B Martin
Franklinsville—G C Bynum.
South Guilford—C H Phillips
Leasburg—Joseph H Wheeler
Person—W M Robey
Orange—A W Mangum
High Rock—A Norman
Alamance—T J Gattis

GREENSBORO' DISTRICT.
N. F. REID, P. E.

Greensboro'—W Barringer
Guilford—C W King and W B Richardson
Trinity College and High Point—B Craven, President of Trinity College
Thomasville—W C Wilson
Davidson—R G Barrett
Ashboro'—J B Alford and Z Rush
Forsythe—I T Wyche
Winston—W W Albea
Stokes—C M Pepper
Madison—S D Peeler
Wentworth—J W Lewis
Yanceyville—L Shell
President of Thomasville College—D R Bruton
Professor of Biblical Literature, Trinity College—Peter Doub

SALISBURY DISTRICT.
W. CLOSS, P. E.

Salisbury—J C Thomas
Rowan—J F Smoot
East Rowan—T L Tripilett
Mocksville—M V Sherrill
Yadkinville—W H Barnes
Surry—To be supplied by C C Stimpson
Mt Airy—M L Woon
Wilkes—A R Murchison
Alexander—To be supplied
Iredell—J W Wheeler
South Iredell—W C Call
Blue Ridge, Jonesville and Elkin River—T N Stevenson

WASHINGTON DISTRICT.
R. S. MORAN, P. E.

Washington and Greenville—W H Moore
Warren—J P Moore
Roanoke—W C Gannon
Wilson—C C Dodson
Tarboro'—J Wheeler
Washington—W H Wheeler
Plymouth and Columbia—To be supplied
Mattamuskeet—D C Johnson
Portsmouth, Ocracoke and Hatteras—Geo E Wyche
Bath—To be supplied by J Mahoney
Church of the Strangers, N. Y. City—C F Deems

NEWBERN DISTRICT.
E. A. YATES, P. E.

Newbern—R A Willis
Beaufort—J W Jenkins
Straits and Cape Lookout—Supplied by J Webb
Morehead City and Trent—W F Clegg
Kinston—W D Meacham
Jones—R P Bibb
Snow Hill—T P Shicaud
Newbern Circuit—N A Hooker
Goldsboro'—M C Thomas
Everittsville—D Culbreth
Wayne—To be supplied
Neuse—J B Bailey

WILMINGTON DISTRICT.
L. S. BURKHEAD, P. E.

Wilmington, Front Street—J H Dally
" Fifth " —R W Robotham
Topsail—A D Betts
Kenansville—To be supplied
Magnolia—F H Wood
Clinton—J H Robbins
Cokesbury—C Plyler
Bladen—C M Anderson
Elizabeth—W S Chaffin
Whiteville—To be supplied
Smithville—(One to be supplied.) W M D Moore, (Sup)
Onslow—J D Buie
Seaman's Bethel—J N Andrews

FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT.
S. D. ADAMS, P. E.

Fayetteville—J E Mann
Cumberland—H P Cole
Robeson—W M Jordan
Rockingham—T W Guthrie
Montgomery—B C Phillips
Uwharrie—J D Thompson and J F Keenans
Cape Fear—B B Culbreth
Jonesboro'—G Farrar
Troy—T C Moses
Deep River—J W Avent
J P Simpson transferred to the Kentucky Conference.

Quite Likely.

Gen. Miles has been here two years. Governor Holden telegraphed to Grant the day after the election that much of the peace, tranquility of the election and *success of the Republican party* was eminently to be ascribed to the wise counsel, firm administration and splendid ability of the District Commander.

Raleigh Letter to N. Y. *Times*.

Here, then, is the secret of Radical success as officially announced by "our" Governor to General GRANT. We felt that the election in this State was carried in the interest of the Radicals by the influence of the military power—that bayonets, rather than ballots, have controlled it.

What a reflection is this upon those *freemen*, so-called, who were influenced in their vote, or in their silence, to purchase the favors, or to avoid the frowns, of such representatives of power. They deserve to have the finger of scorn—yea, Holden's finger—thus pointed at them. They deserve the damning compliment which the Governor pays them in his telegraph to the President elect.

The Chatham Railroad.

We have the pleasure this morning of publishing the opinion of that eminent lawyer, B. F. MOORE, Esq., upon the legality of the bonds issued for the benefit of the Chatham Railroad, addressed to the Hon. R. R. BRIDGERS, President of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad.

The *Journal* has labored to show the unconstitutionality of these bonds, and warned purchasers of the probability of their non-payment. We are glad to find our views endorsed by one of the most eminent lawyers of the Union. The opinion of Mr. MOORE will most assuredly have great effect upon capitalists, if there yet be any so reckless as to propose to invest in these bonds. Endorsed, as we are by such high legal authority, we may safely calculate that we have either protected the oppressed tax-payers of the State from this new and unjust burden, or saved North Carolina from the odium of an apparent repudiation, which may have resulted from the issuance of these bonds.

The action of the New York Stock Broker's Board, to which we have formerly referred, was just and proper, and will do much to bring these bonds into dishonor. How timely their action was, can well be appreciated in view of the legal opinion we publish. We trust, for the honor and welfare of the State, we have heard the last of these bonds upon the markets of the world, and for the reputation of the State and the honor of the Legislature, we could hope that they would not figure in the investigation before Senator SWEET'S Bribery and Corruption Committee. We shall see.

State of Society.

Every crime committed south of Mason and Dixon's line is eagerly seized upon by the Northern press to reflect upon what they are pleased to call the depraved condition of the political and social organism of the South. The assassination of Pollard—its very cowardice and criminality rendering the alleged cause insignificant—is rung into Northern ears as characteristic of the depravity of the upper circle of society in Richmond, and every political brawl and bar-room rencountre are quoted as evidences of the spirit of rebellion, and the persecutions to which "loyal," white and black, men are subjected.

The murder of Mrs. Hill, in Philadelphia, the horrid particulars of which have already been published; of Warren George, in Maine, published to-day, and the tragedies in Kingston, Worchester and Charlestown, in Massachusetts; the death of Kilton, at Canaan, New Hampshire, and the recent performance of Craig, in Philadelphia, and dozens of other similar crimes perpetrated within a few weeks at the North, go far beyond anything happening in the South, even in the midst of the disorganized condition of society and government during the few months immediately subsequent to the war.

These scenes, happening daily throughout the North, furnish food for the sympathy of home philanthropists, employment for the talents of home artists who illustrate Harper's Weekly *and other journals of civilization* in that region, and material for the reformation of home legislators, and we trust in the future, as the objects of Southern misrepresentation and villification, have been secured in the reconstruction of the Union and the election of General GRANT, that the attention of these three classes of men will be diverted from us, at least until the mote is taken from their own eyes.

The Coming Peace.

The New York *World* collects and publishes the views of the leading PEACE men of the country. Here are their sentiments:

"Troops," says GRANT, heading the pack. "The troops on the plains are all needed; troops are still needed in the Southern States," "Troops," says SHERMAN. The Indians must be reservationed, and this "desired result can only be obtained by coercion." "Troops," says Brevet Major General DAVIS, from Alaska, and dwells on "the needlessness of a civil government for the Territory at present." "Troops," says Brevet Major General ORD, from Arizona; "*an increase of the force*, with a view to more energetic operations against the Apaches—the worst of all Indians—is recommended by the division commander, *who speaks highly of the agricultural capacity of the Territory.*" Ah! he does, does he? Then let him grow his crop of armed men on that fruitful soil. "Troops," says THOMAS, from the Department of the Cumberland; "no improvement in the state of public and social affairs," and "the necessity for the presence of troops is as great as heretofore." "Troops, says STONEMAN, from Virginia; but then, for a wonder, he wants no more, finding "two regiments of infantry and one company of artillery" quite sufficient for the birth-place and tomb of WASHINGTON. "Troops," cries MEADE, from the consolidated Second and Third Military Districts; "more power." I want my military finger in the civil pie. "Troops," says REYNOLDS, from Texas, who found it necessary for reconstruction purposes "to withdraw troops from the frontier posts 'to such an extent as to impair their efficiency for protection against the Indians.'" Of course, perish the settlers, so that reconstruction live.

"Troops, troops, troops," almost every man-jack among them is crying, from Let-us-have-peace down, all save Brevet Major General ALVAN C. GILLEM, who writes: "The civil courts have continued to dispense justice, under the supervision of the military authorities, and *there has been no necessity for the use of the troops stationed in the State!*" This State is Mississippi; Mississippi is not reconstructed, neither reconstructing, and, therefore, has no use for troops.

This is the bright exception. Everywhere else there comes up a roar for soldiery. GRANT heads it and Secretary SCHOFIELD claps his hemi-demi-semiquaver to its tail. There is "unusual disposition to lawlessness and crime and comparative inefficiency of civil government in those States," says he—those reconstructed States, those successfully reconstructed States—and "the only laws of Congress providing for the employment of the military force of the United States in support of the government of any State were passed in the infancy of the republic"—for a wonder, he didn't get it *nation*—"with a jealous care to avoid undue interference by the National Government in State affairs, and *not designed for such a condition of society as now exists in the Southern States.*" All of which means "troops," and so the song, which began with "troops, troops, winds up with "troops, troops, troops."

And this is—Let us have peace.

THE sweetest flowers nestle in the most unfrequented spots, so the brightest thoughts ennoble the calmest minds.

For the Journal.

The Chatham Railroad—Opinion of B. F. Moore.

My opinion is required upon the question, whether the act of the General Assembly of August 15, 1868, chap. 14, which proposes to lend to the "Chatham Railroad Company" the credit of the State for $2,000,000, in order to enable "said Company to finish their road," is constitutional.

In order properly to comprehend the scope of the question, it is necessary to attend to the following facts and circumstances:

The General Assembly, in the year 1861, chap. 129, chartered the "Chatham Railroad Company," "for the purpose of building and constructing a railroad" from the Coalfields, in the county of Chatham, through said county to Raleigh, or some point West of Raleigh, not exceeding twelve miles, the nearest and most practicable route."

The charter was amended by Ordinance No. 7, of January, 1862, so as to connect this road with the North Carolina Railroad, and to allow the Southern termini of the road to be "at any point or points in the said Coalfield region."

Under this charter the company was duly organized and the road begun. At the session of the Convention of 1868, an Ordinance was passed, chap. 19; ratified March 11, by which it was enacted: "That, to enable the "Chatham Railroad Company" to finish its road, the State should lend the said company its bonds for $1,-200,000.

All these matters took place before the adoption of the Constitution of the State in April, 1868, and there was *then* no existing restraint on the power of the General Assembly in regard to their making State contracts, or lending the credit of the State.

By that instrument, Art. 5, Sec. 5, it is provided: "Until the bonds of the State shall be at par, the General Assembly shall have no power to contract any new debt or pecuniary obligation in behalf of the State, except to supply a casual deficit, or for suppressing invasion or insurrection, unless it shall, in the same bill, levy a special tax to pay the interest annually. And the General Assembly shall have no power to give or lend the credit of the State in aid of any person, association or corporation, except to aid in the completion of such railroads as may be unfinished at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, or in which the State has a direct pecuniary interest, unless the subject be submitted to a direct vote of the people of the State, and be approved by a majority of those who shall vote thereon."

This section of the Constitution was obviously intended to prohibit the General Assembly from extending their powers beyond certain limits in respect to involving the State in debt.

Whether these limits are defined by clear and well chosen language will, I apprehend, soon be tested; and it will be very unfortunate for the credit of the State if the language should prove to be so flexible as to give color to contrary decisions, as, at different times, they may find favor with the popular judgment of the hour.

Nothing can be more disastrous to the public honor than to have the credit of the State solemnly pledged by one General Assembly and repudiated by another; yet this sad result must ensue unless the spirit of the provision shall be firmly and rigidly observed and executed.

The section consists of two main and principal divisions:

1st, The General Assembly is expressly prohibited "to contract any *new* debt or pecuniary obligation in behalf of the State," except in cases of *casual* deficit, *invasion* or *insurrection*, "unless it shall, in the same bill," which creates the pecuniary obligation, "levy a special tax to pay the interest annually."

2d. The General Assembly is prohibited to give or lend the credit of the State," under any circumstances, unless the subject be submitted to the people of the State; except, first, "to aid in the completion of such railroads as may be unfinished at the time of the adoption of the Constitution;" or, second, to aid such "in which the State has a direct pecuniary interest."

The first division applies solely to contracts made on behalf of the State itself; and the second, solely to contracts whereby the State gives or lends its credit to, and becomes bound for, others.

Under the first, the State, for itself, can contract no *new* debt, except in the excepted cases, until its *then* outstanding bonds shall be at *par*.

At the time of framing the Constitution the State bonds were notoriously below *par*. So long as this is remembered and the word "*par*" is understood, any violation of the first division of the section must be palpable and wilful.

The State, therefore, cannot *now* make new contracts to raise money for itself, in other than the excepted cases. Nor can the State, for the benefit of others, give or lend its credit to railroads, in which the State has no "direct pecuniary interest," except to such as was already in being (*i. e.* organized) and unfinished at the adoption of the Constitution.

The case stated for my opinion does not present the question whether the alternative provision that embraces roads "in which the State has a direct pecuniary interest, be confined to such roads only as *then* (at the adoption of the Constitution) existed."

The language employed to express this part of the restrictionary clause is unfortunately, in my opinion, exceedingly vague and opens the door for a construction which, if adopted, will annihilate all restriction of legislative power depending on the State having "a direct pecuniary interest."

If such aid be confined to those roads which *then* had existence, the restriction will have much effect; but if aid may be given to any road which may be thereafter organized or built, in which the State shall or may have "a direct pecuniary interest," the intended restriction will be worthless. Because it may be evaded by the simplest legislative contrivance. As, if the General Assembly should subscribe now, or at any time hereafter, for the State and pay for a few shares of railroad stock; or if a stockholder should present to the State a few of his own shares, the case would be forthwith presented of a railroad in which the State had "a direct pecuniary interest."

By this stratagem every road, now or hereafter chartered, might be aided by State credit, as effectually as before the adoption of the present State Constitution. But, whatever may be the construction, which may be finally adopted in regard to this part of the second division of the section, I am decidedly of opinion that the true construction of that part of the second division, which embraces the case of *unfinished* roads, is, that the power to give aid by State credit is confined to railroads in existence (i. e.) to railroads organized and actually begun, and *substantially* the same after, as before, the adoption of the Constitution.

The "Chatham Railroad" was a road in being and an unfinished road, at the adoption of the Constitution, and was, therefore, an allowable object of State aid without submitting the subject to "a direct vote of the people of the State."

Since the adoption of the Constitution, the General Assembly, by act of August 3, 1868, chapter 7, authorized the "Chatham Railroad Company" "to extend their road to the South Carolina line near Cheraw."

By an act of August 15, 1868, chapter 14, the General Assembly undertook, of their own authority, to lend the aid of the State to the so-called "Chatham Railroad Company," to the amount of $2,000,000, and provided for securing the State by "a lien "upon all the estate of the road, real or "personal, which they may now have or "may hereafter acquire between the point "of intersection with the Western railroad "and the South Carolina State line, in-"cluding that at both points, &c."

The proposed actual *extension* of the road is about twice the length of *that* "Chatham Railroad," which existed at the adoption of the Constitution. *That* railroad was about forty-seven miles in extent; *this new railroad*, called the "Chatham Railroad," altogether is about one hundred and fifty miles long.

It is a mere abuse of words to call the extended road the "*Chatham Railroad*," and insist, by merely preserving the name, that it was a road in existence at the adoption of the Constitution.

With as much reason might a person, who, in 1867, had contracted to build the "*Chatham Railroad*," by that name and designation, for a specified sum of money, be now held, under his contract, to build it in its extended length for the same money.

The present "Chatham Railroad" is not the former road of that name; and any logic which could successfully prove it to be such, would enable that or any other road in the State, by *extension* simply, to run over the entire State wherever a railroad should be required, and would invest the General Assembly "with power to give or lend the credit of the State in aid" of every foot of *new* railroad which can be established, without submitting the subject to the people. And thus the second division of this section of the Constitution would, by a little legislative legerdemain, be rendered utterly nugatory.

I am of opinion that the bonds proposed to be issued under the act of August 15, 1868, if issued, would be issued in violation of the Constitution.

B. F. MOORE.

To R. R. BRIDGERS, Esq., Pres' W. & W. R. R. Co.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Removal of Disabilities—"Boys in Blue"—President's Message in Congress—Thad. Stevens' Old Shoes—Grant's Keeper—Washburn vs. Schenck—The Virginia Election—"Our" Senators and Representatives—The *Personnel* of the House—The Negro Member—Mullins of Tennessee, &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9th, 1868.

Dear Journal: There has been much speculation in regard to be probable course of Congress in regard to the removal of disabilities imposed on the people of the South. It was thought by many that, the elections being over, a liberal and magnanimous course would be pursued, and that all, or nearly all, would be restored to citizenship. The action of the Senate this afternoon seems to settle the question for this Congress, at least. An act removing the disabilities of F. J. Moses, of South Carolina, being under consideration, an amendment was offered by Senator Davis of Kentucky, to include *all* citizens of South Carolina in its provisions, which was voted down—the Republicans voting in solid phalanx against it. This indicates that there is to be no "wholesale" relief, though the number of individual cases already before the House show that the "retail" business will be continued at the old stand.

In the election of Mr. Buxton as Doorkeeper of the House, over Dr. W. T. Collins, on Monday last, the House made its usual display of affection for the "boys in blue." Collins is the Assistant Adjutant General of the G. A. R. During the war he was one of Berdan's sharp shooters of the army of the Potomac, and lost a leg in the service. It was understood by his friends that Schenck, and Garfield, and Logan, and all the ex-Colonels and Generals in the House—and their name is legion—would spread themselves in his behalf; but Logan was—sick, and the most of the others went back on him, and he didn't poll a corporal's guard.

The Senate adjourned to-day before the reading of the President's message was concluded, thus maintaining their resemblance to a set of unruly school boys. The House gave it a respectful hearing, though Bingham and some others grew restive, and Butler turned his back and yawned. At its conclusion a dozen or more sprang to their feet, with resolutions in their hands, each anxious to be first in the assault; but E. B. Washburn was the one recognized by the Speaker, and a scene ensued that would be difficult to describe, though all familiar with the House have seen many such.

Ever since the death of Thad. Stevens there has been a struggle going on for the leadership of the House, notably, between Washburn and Schenck. Thus far the advantage has been with the former. Butler looks on at the fight very complacently, knowing that so soon as they have used each other up the sceptre will drop into his lap. *Apropos* of this rivalry you have doubtless seen the statement of a correspondent that Washburn has lost his hold on Grant—that the General has jumped from his pocket into the keeping of Schenck. Knowing the source of this information I am disposed to believe it, and the rivalry between them is intensified by it. They both denounced the message—Schenck being the most bitter and demonstrative. While the message was being read from the Clerk's desk, each member held a "yaller-kivered" copy of it in his hand, as if anxious to compare it with the manuscript.

While Bingham's bill providing for an election in Virginia was under discussion, the Georgia Radicals came in for their share of abuse from their friends, along with the poor "rebels." The bill was amended so as to postpone the election until the 4th Tnursday in May, and the meeting of the Legislature to September, all after Grant shall have been inaugurated. The bill originally provided for an election in January, but they expressed the fear that Johnson might do something to prevent a fair election (?) and hence the amendment.

I have not seen either of your Senators in their seats yet. All the members of the House from North Carolina were present to-day except Hon. O. H. Dockery. Heaton the cadaverous, was in his seat, looking as well as usual, notwithstanding his reported illness.

The *personnel* of the House is but little changed since last session—some new members have been admitted, though the negro from Louisiana is not one of them—indeed he was not in the House to-day, or at least I did not see him. Mullins, of Tennessee, was promptly in his seat on Monday, and yesterday and to-day; but I was reminded of the melancholy fact that the place that now knows him will soon know him no more for ever. In exchanging greetings with one of the members he was addressed with, "Ah, Mullins, the negroes went back on you this time." Now, what will the House do without Mullins? It will be worse than a circus without a clown.—There is one I could name, who made a display last session that proved him worthy to wear his mantle, but for a genuine, simon pure jackass, Mullins is a leetle ahead, even of him. If I had had a voice in the Tennessee election, I should have protested against the defeat of Mullins on behalf of the hard worked "third estate."

SI TOD.

HOW THEY DO IT—SUCCESS OF A FORMER WILMINGTONIAN.—We extract the following from a letter from a California correspondent to a friend in New Berne, and published in the *Journal of Commerce* in that city. The many friends and connections of Dr. Ashe will be pleased to see his success so flatteringly evidenced, and to hear of his great prosperity.

The letter says:

"I traveled for two weeks with Dr. R. P. Ashe (formerly of Wilmington, N. C., now of the city of Stockton) through the great agricultural region of the San Joaquin Valley. Dr. Ashe is the second largest farmer in California—his crop of grain this, or rather next, season will be about 70,000 bushels, if the season is a fair one.

"I was on *one of* his farms, 2,109 acres in extent, upon which he had five men employed in ploughing and putting in seed—he told me he would not employ over seven laborers until harvest, and expected to raise 20,000 bushels grain on that farm—all this struck me as very strange—20,000 bushels grain, and only seven men to do the labor; but when I looked at his gang plows, pulled by six or eight horses, his sowing machine on a two-horse wagon scattering the seed 60 feet wide, and so adjusted as to sow 45, 60, or 75 pounds to the acre, one man being able to sow 50 or 60 acres per day; and then to his reaping machine that goes through his fields taking the heads off them leaving the straw standing, the machines being accompanied by wagons of huge dimension and making a sward 20 or 25 feet wide and throwing the grain as fast as reaped into the wagons, which deposited it as they were filled, in some convenient place for the thrasher which comes along, worked by either horse or steam power, which thrashes and bags from 1,-000 to 1,500 bushels per day,—I was no longer astonished. Seventeen hundred acres of this farm will be seeded anew with grain; 400 acres will be a volunteer crop."

OUR RALEIGH CORRESPONDENCE.

The Legislature—Corruption Committee—How the Thing Works—How Conviction is to be Flanked—More Appropriations—Its End, whither and how Far—The Chatham Railroad—Corruption, Taxation, Robbery, Heardlessness and Peculation—The Lieutenant Governor—Major Avery—The two Watches—Office-Seekers—"Our" Representative, &c., &c.

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 11, 1868.

Dear Journal:—An immense amount of important business is afloat in the Legislature, though it is safe to predict that but little will be *consummated* before the recess, which, as you are aware, extends from the 21st inst. to the 4th prox.

Since the date of my last letter, perhaps the most notable incident has been the formal swearing in of the Corruption Committee. It remains now to be seen what are to be the developments. That venality and bribery have been common and shameless does not admit of a doubt. Else the spectacle daily exhibited, during the last session of the Legislature, of impecunious and notoriously insolvent individuals strolling around hotels and restaurants, with suddenly distended pockets, wearing fine jewelry, or driving fast horses, is inexplicable. One of the methods in which the thing is managed is this: One of the "Ring" approaches Mr. ———, who is well known to be perfectly accessible, and who is equally well known to have *influence* with a certain set in the Assembly. The sum of $5,000 or $10,000 is handed over to him, with the significant intimation that a certain scheme must be "put through," and that he will be held responsible, in view of the "consideration," for its successful manipulation. Mr. ——— *knows his men*, and a judicious distribution of little presents, from a gold watch-chain down to a stunning neck-tie, or a largess of green-backs, fixes the matter, and Mr. ——— pockets a handsome surplus.

Or thus: Mr. ——— hints to such and such a one that he is anxious for the success of a certain project, and winks his eye knowingly. Shortly thereafter, such and such a one is rather "hard up," and *would* Mr. ——— be so very kind and obliging as to accommodate him with the loan of a hundred or two? Of course, Mr. ——— is only too glad to oblige his dear friend, and, of course, that dear friend is not so ungrateful as to vote against any project in which so clever and liberal a *gentleman* as Mr. ——— is interested. And thus the *Ring* is complete—like that famous buckler of Achilles, you know, of which Mr. Webster spoke in his great speech of March, 1850:

"*In living silver* seemed the waves to roll,
And beat the buckler's verge, *and bound the whole!*"

Now, if *that* is not a prostitution of the beautiful Homeric description, I should like to know what could be!

Rumor has it that since the passage of Mr. Sweet's resolutions, which the "finger boards" did so much to embarrass or defeat, the probable exposures are sought to be frustrated in a singularly unique manner. For instance: The such and such a one above referred to, has been to Mr. ———, *and executed a note* for the amount so generously and considerately *loaned*, (it being well understood that the note is never to be collected, or sought to be.) So that if the Committee should, perchance, get wind of the original transaction, the note will be paraded in evidence that the affair was purely and altogether of a *business* character between two *honest* men! Such is one of the many expedients that are being, and will be, employed to thwart this investigation. But there are on that Committee two or three men of inflexible courage and stern honesty, who are determined to bring these occult villainies to light, if possible. So that unless witnesses are removed or swear falsely, it is confidently anticipated that disclosures will be made which, although they will unfold a dark page in our history—a page upon its hitherto stainless record written by Radicalism—will yet, I hope, open the eyes of our people to the drifting of events, and crush out this infamous crew who have fastened themselves upon the vitals of the State. I will keep you posted as the events transpire.

The Senate, on yesterday, passed, on its final reading, a bill making a further appropriation of about *three million* to the Western Extension—an important enterprise, it is true, but how the people, already crushed by debt and taxation, are to pay the specific tax involved, in addition to their other grievous burdens, passes all comprehension. This is the entering wedge to other appropriations, and you may set it down as certain that this Legislature, before it adjourns, will add at least $8,000,000 more to the State debt. *The end of all this is*—REPUDIATION!" Only this and nothing more."

A bill is also pending to *doctor* up the present "*sick man*"—the Chatham Railroad scheme. That project is, in very truth, *very* sick, since the action of the New York Stock Board in throwing out its bonds. The object of the bill to which I refer is to remove the *constitutional* obstacle to their validity, by providing, specifically, for the necessary tax to meet the interest. And so we go. Corruption, taxation, robbery, heartlessness and peculation, all in the interests of stock-jobbers, carpet-baggers, adventurers and *shrewd* (ah! what an amount of rascality in the modern parlance is covered by that little word!) money-makers! When the Revenue Bill comes to be framed it will fairly take away the breath of our plain, frugal, honest people.

The Lieutenant Governor is understood to be engaged in canvassing his Senatorial District, to the neglect of his official duties, in order to defeat the Democratic candidate. Had it not been for his active personal maligntiy that gallant gentleman, Maj. Avery, would have been admitted to the seat, of which he was so infamously and lawlessly deprived. There was an universal disposition to admit him until Caldwell brought the party screws to bear. And yet he wears a *watch* given to him, in part, by Conservative Senators, I am sorry to say, and boasts that he is a model of fairness, I ween! Out upon such hypocricy! By the way, it is regarded as an admirable burlesque upon *that* affair, that the negro, Galloway, too, should have had *a watch* presented to *him*. Tod and Galloway! As they set, face to face, handling their fobs, it is absolutely funny.

Parson Sinclair, who was in bad odor with the Radical leaders last session because he was really independent and outspoken on several occasions, seems to be once more in the full bands of fellowship. Certainly he has toned down mightily. It is said that he is after the Consulate to Glasgow, under Grant, and, consequently, must "have himself" like a good boy. The crazy man, they call Font Taylord up here, also wants something from the new administration, in that line, and, as Mr. Holden is said to be anxious to get rid of him, the thing may carry.

I see that you are flattering enough to compliment my portraiture of your "Representatives." That was only a *profile*. I'll try my brush, at a *full length*, some of these days.

Dor.

STATE NEWS.

HON. DAVID HEATON.—The report of this gentleman's sickness was exaggerated. Although suffering under some indisposition he was in his seat at the opening of Congress.

HILLSBORO' RECORDER.—The venerable Dennis Heartt, for nearly half a century connected with the press of this State as editor of the Hillsboro' Recorder (the first number having been issued Feb. 15, 1820), has disposed of his interest therein to Mr. T. C. Evans, of Milton. Mr. Heartt is a native of Connecticut, born November, 1783, a printer by profession, and honored by men of all political parties.

DAVIDSON COLLEGE.—"J. H. S.," in his notice of the meeting of the Synod in Wilmington, says:

"Dr. McPhail, President of Davidson College, addressed the Synod and the public on the condition and prospects of that College. It was gratifying to hear such favorable accounts. Few Colleges in the South, if any, present more inducements to parents—christian parents, and especially to Presbyterian parents, to entrust their sons to the care, the discipline and the scholarship that are now making Davidson one of the best Colleges in the land. Davidson College appeals, especially now, to all the Presbyterians of North Carolina."—N. C. *Presbyterian*.

We claim to have here in our little town the champion workman on plows; he "wooded up" last Saturday *twenty-five* plows—size No. 50. Who can beat it, in so short a day? D. C. Richardson is a man of energy.—Weldon *News*.

THE PENITENTIARY.—Amid the slashing commentaries of the Press, in various parts of the State, upon the action of the Committee in the purchase of the 8,000 acres of land ten miles from the site of the proposed Penitentiary, for the modest little sum of $100,000, we beg them to remember that Mr. Robbins, the Senator from Rowan, one of the Committee, presented a minority report, dissenting from that action. We have been endeavoring to find room for that report, and hope yet to be able to do so. As the *Old North State* truly observes, Mr. Robbins in this matter has shown a laudable zeal for the best interests of the people of North Carolina.

Ral. *Sentinel*.

Among the new townships laid off by the Commissioners of Wayne are two which commemorate, by title, the illustrious names of "Holden and Brogden." It is said that an exodus of white men is threatened from these "townships."

Ral. *Sentinel*.

GEN. D. H. HILL OF NORTH CAROLINA.—This distinguished Confederate General, the hero of Big Bethel, and who is endeared to his fellow-citizens of the South by reason of common sacrifices and struggles in a cause, the memory of which is dear to them all, is sojourning in our city. The ties of frendship which link him to the people of Mississippi are doubly strengthened by his relationship to the late Col. Wm. R. and to Hon. A. P. Hill, honored citizens of our State, who were beloved in life and lamented in death. The 13th, 17th, 18th and 21st Mississippi regiments will especially hold him in remembrance as the successor of Gen. Evans at Leesburg, in the early part of the war, as a commander of the brigade of which they were a part.

Gen. Hill is performing a valuable service in the publication of his able periodical, "THE LAND WE LOVE," which is devoted to the interests of his own section, and serves the useful purpose of recording, in detail, the great deeds which have rendered illustrious the names of those who achieved them in behalf of the cause which, though lost, is reverently remembered. It is an able work, and apart from its political and historical aspects, is one of the most valuable of the day. Gen. Hill's visit affords a good opportunity to our citizens to become subscribers.

Jackson (Miss.) *Clarion*.

Gen. Robert B. Vance, of Buncombe, is one of the most popular men in the State among the benevolent orders. He is Grand Master of Masons, President of the State Council Friends of Temperance, and Past Grand of the Order of Independent Odd Fellows.